



...and YOURS only

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Yours, Yours, Yours.....and Yours only

by R SAI

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Forward

This book is not about the Author. It is not an exercise in exhibiting the grace bestowed upon the group or the Author by the Lord. It is hoped that it will illuminate the path of Love to God for all seekers of the divine. The grace showered on the Author by our Beloved Lord is unique but attainable. It is available to all and obtainable by all.

All that is required is the attempt. Make the attempt and watch the miracle
He creates just for you.

"Cultivate a nearness with Me in the heart and you will be rewarded."

Baba

The truth of these words is verified by the events in this book. He yearns for us to seek Him. We ever fail to realise how much God loves us. We falter in our attempts to follow His teachings and so the journey is necessarily slow and laborious.

Love is the only requisite. Love Him with all your heart and soul. Place Him foremost before all material considerations. Do not allow yourself to be drawn into the worldly whirlpool for then no trial or tribulation can affect you, so great is the power of His protective love.

Note from the author: I would like to offer my gratitude to the Seva Dal at Whitefield, the accommodation officers and the warden without whose invaluable assistance the play could not have been performed. A special Thanks to our Sai brothers 'Swami's students' whose dedication, humility and love for the Lord inspired us all. I owe a debt to a personal friend, the only one Baba permitted me to confide in.

“Through inner silence learn to tune
into God’s Voice.”

-Sri Sathya Sai Baba-

Chapter 1

The Awakening

My fifth trip to India to see God in human form was brief and initially disappointing. I barely had five days with my beloved Baba at Prasanthi Nilayam, and I was counting the darshans as if my life blood was draining away drop by drop. For reasons best known to Himself Baba kept His distance from me and although He later explained the reasons for His behavior, at the time, I was heartbroken. I took leave of Baba with immense sorrow on the 3rd of February 1993

One day later the unimaginable happened. An inner voice in the form of thought waves spoke to me throughout the day. Through this wonder filled method of communication Baba advised me of the reasons for His remoteness and spoke to me of many other things. In my self-made bleakness and anger, I refused to accept His explanations, repeatedly asking Him to go away and leave me to my misery. However, although we in our ignorance and frustration deny the Lord, He in His infinite compassion remains by our side awaiting our attention. In all truth, at first, I thought that I was imagining it all and that in my distress perhaps my mind had become temporarily unhinged as I had never read of or come across this phenomenon before. Strange to say that since then I have not only come across books describing a devotee's experiences but also people who have also been blessed with this inner communication with the divine.

The Lord works in mysterious ways. A few days later on my return flight I opened a newly purchased book and was stunned to read that the author was also a recipient of His grace in this particular form. Tears gathered and fell as I recalled His words and finally realised the truth. Each word of His rang true and I begged forgiveness for having disbelieved Him and entreated Him to return to me.

To my amazement He immediately responded to my pleas. Since that day Baba is constantly with me in spirit. It was previously my habit to write letters to Baba almost every day and to post the same. This has now become unnecessary as His grace is there in the form of these instant reply thought waves and the vision of Baba seated in my heart which appears before my eyes whenever I think of Him and wish to talk to Him.

I was and still am overwhelmed by this gift of grace of continuous contact with God as most of the persons I have since come to learn to communicate with Baba only in dhyana. On seeking the reason for this from Baba I was overjoyed when He informed me that it was because He wished me to keep an account of His teachings and conversations with me and to eventually write a book the title of which He had already given to me in a dream in January 1987. Never did I imagine in my wildest dreams that when He told me I would write a book entitled 'Yours, Yours, Yours and Yours Only' that its subject matter would be His direct communications to me regarding living everyday life in love and communion with God.

The inner guidance which has become a part of my life with Baba admonishing, teaching, and loving me is almost as if there are two of us sharing one body. The feeling is unique - one of almost constant bliss which Baba shares with me His knowledge, wisdom and love. Every thought, word and act of mine is open to His censure or approval, and He instantly voices such. A frown or critical word immediately draws not only a reproof but also advice on how the situation

ought to have been handled. Many of my habits, previously acceptable, are now under divine review.

Ours is a family given to eating out and takeaways but Baba's presence within me means that the food I consume must be pure and sathwic, worthy of the Lord and so I must needs eschew such meals and partake of only homemade foods. Tea and coffee is not much approved of either but Baba still allows me a few cups a day until I can give up the habit completely. Although midday He will advise against tea and suggest a hot orange or fruit drink. Baba has said that only one meal a day and that not excessive in quantity is sufficient as overeating prohibits communion with God (makes one lazy mentally). And since it feels to me as if there are two of us it is only right that I abide by His wishes. I do not always succeed in this endeavor, but I try.

My daily prayer to my beloved Sai is that He may take over my senses, mind and heart so completely that we are no longer two but one.

Baba says that it will take time and as time goes by the attachment grows stronger the more in tune and at one, we will become.

I cannot thank Him enough for this rare gift of grace. The dialogues with the divine are amrita to my soul. Despite the fact this direct communication is not for material queries Baba, in His boundless love, responds to even trivial questions as they arise in my mind without my having to ask.

Talking of the mind, it runs by itself almost, on the proverbial wheels and often sets to planning and reviewing situations of what is, has been or will be. This means that at that time Baba could not speak to me. For me this is very exasperating as I would rather hear His voice than the chattering of my mind. Also. Baba has as much right to the use of this mind as I have. So, at present it is almost a full-time job to consciously keep free the mind, allowing the link with my heart (where I can see Baba) to remain open.

15th February Monday 1993

Yesterday I was asked if I could take over as convenor of bal vikas. I returned home and consulted Baba who advised me that I was not quite ready to assume the mantle of that responsibility. He went on to say that dreams when He told me I would write a book entitled 'Yours, Yours, Yours and Yours Only' that it's subject matter would be His direct communications to me regarding living everyday life in love and communion with God.

As my faith in His words was shaky to say the least, I asked Him to confirm with a dream.

I dreamt that I was calling on Baba constantly and although I carried out some pretty foolish things to gain His attention, He refused to oblige. I then got up and went to a place in which a meeting was to be held. As I reached there my friends A and B were just leaving in a van. They went to take part in and assist in a program. Very angry I cursed Baba profusely. All of a sudden Baba was present, smiling. He was engaged with others in conversation. He requested me to be a volunteer at the door. Pleased, I complied. At this my friends returned as their program was over. Baba proceeded to hand things out to everyone. He gave me a bundle which contained a mat and other things. He wished to give me much more, but I said it was alright. He asked me to wrap them up well.

He also informed me that I should have been at the program with my friends. Furthermore, there are sixteen mats in all and that if I kept this one with me, I would have a nice life, He said.

This dream relates to the events of the past few months wherein my friends went to Baba for Christmas. I missed out due to my doubts that it could be possible. Baba was busy with the arrangements for the doctor's conference at Prasanthi when we finally went in February. The mat of which there are 16 represents the gift of His being with me always. He used the number 16 as we had been teaching the Bhaja Govindhum last year and that is what will lead to the children's trip in August. Naturally, wrapping it up meant keeping it a closely guarded secret.

All this in one dream. What pleased and saddened me most at the same time was that I missed out on the Christmas trip which could very well have been mine had I not allowed myself to become immersed in material gains.

Hopefully in His constant company the mind should soon become amenable and docile and lose the tendency to wander hither and thither on its own.

The joy of this union, of the visible and tangible presence of the Lord is beyond words to explain. One must experience it to realise its true worth. Needless to say, it is a priceless gift. Each morning, I wake up with a smile on my lips and a singing in my heart as no matter what the day will hold for me materially, internally there will always be the precious moments when I can enjoy a heavenly time with Him and lose myself in that ananda. For instance, one morning Baba insisted on marmalade on His toast. Another Sunday morning, I could see Him lying asleep in my heart and He refused to wake up and 'slept in till 11am'. His replies and playful love are indicative of the never ending love and compassion He has for us or else why should the Lord of the universe descend from His high estate to play such leela's with so unworthy and insignificant a person as I. In my whole life I cannot see that I have ever done anything to deserve such grace. I yearn for the day, Baba assures me will come, when this sense of two will disappear and only He will remain.

Whenever I look at or talk to a photograph of His He is quick to remind me that He is present in my heart and that I can see Him there. However, habits take time to change.

We tend to think that if God advises us or is with us all the time it should be easy to change our habits, but it is not true. How I wish it was as I feel for Baba having to reiterate the same teachings again and again and again. Life must be very boring and monotonous for God.

17th February Wednesday

S - Hands work, Heart has Swami and mind holds conversation with God - that is how life should be. Instead mans heart is full of bad qualities, his mind of past, future and now and his hands of the resultant effect of both. When mind is occupied the heart link with the divine should also be active.

A - But that is not what happens. We either have outer or inner link not both.

S - It will happen with practice.

A - I wish I could have spoken with you like Hislop.

S - You are now.

I was thinking about the lost last four years during which I had been unable to progress spiritually due to personal problems and now I did not wish to lose any more time and only wanted to become closer and closer to Baba.

S - The only way to get closer to me is to ignore the material world, Its ups and downs (even within the Sai Centre). Do not allow yourself to be tossed hither and thither, stay firmly rooted in my presence then you will have the constant vision of Sai in the heart.

Later

S - Live in the love, longing and yearning for Me and see the miracle that I create just for you. Witness the events around you as made especially for you for your purposes.

A - Baba please consider this body as your instrument and do only as You wish. Is this communication link with you just a stage in sadhana to be discarded later?

S - No. It is permanent and will later become deeper with an inner voice and visions.

A - What is the ultimate in this path?

S - Total unity and oneness with God - jeevan mukthi.

A - Is this true?

S - Can you doubt it?

A - I want to come to see you so much.

S - Have faith - you will. Sooner than you think.

A - How? It is impossible.

S - Sai's miracle. Wait and see. Each word I say to you I'll make true. Just as a mother loves her child to the exclusion of all others I love my devotees and when I yearn to see them, I turn everything around to make it possible.

18th February Thursday

Yesterday I had two meals and even though they were with Baba's permission I felt awful within myself. I kept recalling His words to eat only one meal a day. So, I decided that today being my fast I would not eat at all unless Baba provided it for me Himself. I went shopping with mother and was slightly irritated at the length of time taken. Baba reminded me that I should not entertain such feelings and that the way to look at the situation was it did not matter where I was so long as I am with Him within. Soon I "saw" Baba cooking in my heart.

A - What are you doing?

S - Cooking for you.

R - How can you? There are no ingredients.

S - Love can work wonders and it is all that is needed.

I laughed at Baba, but He continued to prepare His meal. Soon mother went into a shop and returned with a box of mangoes. My favorite.

S - See My leela? I make everyone do what I want, for you - so why should you be upset?

On returning home, mother started to prepare a meal for me (most unusual as she never does as we never allow her to).

- A - I cannot eat I won't.
 S - Of course you will eat. For Me. I do not want you to stay hungry.
 A - Truly?
 S - I insist.

As I sat down to Baba's meal for me, I could see Him 'eating' in my heart with relish throughout the meal. Afterwards I vacuumed.

- A - What are you going to do?
 S - Have a nap.
 R - Really! While I work?
 S - Shall I help?
 R - No Baba, it's my job.
 S - Always remember this principle in married life. Women today have forgotten their role. Everyone has a particular part to play but women have forgotten and use men to do their chores while they themselves go out to work. This is not correct.

19th February Friday

Had decided to make Baba a cake. However, there was work to be carried out in the business and though I offered to go I did not really wish to. Awoke at 6 a.m.

- S - Go to work. Hands that help are holier than lips that pray.
 A - I wonder if I have to? I hope not.
 S - Duty is God.
 A - I will if you wish me to.
 S - Yes.
 A - What about your cake?

Silence Baba would not reply.

My brother said my services were not required but the Sanathan Sarathi arrived with an article on laziness.

- S - Clean my bedroom.
 A - Your bedroom?
 A - Not today Baba I will do it tomorrow
 S - No, do it today.
 A - I'll clean the kitchen and then see.

While working in the kitchen.

- A - Baba why are you so insistent for the room to be cleaned today?
 No reply. Then it dawned on me.
 A - It's Shivaratri, that's why, is it not?
 S - At last. Why don't you listen to me when I ask you to do something?
 A - Sorry I did not realise.
 S - You should 'do' anyway.

I cleaned the bedroom. Then Baba insisted I have another bath. I thought I had better listen this time. I was in two minds about going to the all night bhajans.

S - Go. It will be Prasanthi for you. I'll be there.

Going to bhajans in the evening I was late, pacing the floor and very impatient as I waited for my brother to give me a lift to the hall.

S - Why the hurry? You are only going from Me to Me!

A - I know. Even so!

S - I am here in your heart. You will be taking Me with you.

True to His word I was 'taking Him' with me'. The bhajans were beautiful but I took no part as I was in bliss with the visions Baba granted to me in my heart of Him smiling and enjoying the bhajans. He offered me His feet and much more besides, so much more that I wondered if it truly was real.

S - Of course it is real. You cannot just see me.

A - I'm not sure, it is too much.

S - I'll give you a flower.

A - How can you, I will not go to the front to get it. (I was sitting at the very back)

S - Wait and see.

Last bhajan and aarthi and I could see Baba blessing the gathering profusely with both hands raised from within my heart. I also had visions of Shiva and Shiva and Baba merging. A lady before me gave me a flower (which she had picked from the path) not her style at all. I was overcome. At the jagran again the same for bhajans and Baba asked me not to sing but to sit by his side. I was anxious for the bhajans to finish so that I could hear about my friend's experiences of her trip to see Baba.

S - You will only leave Me - for what?

A - But I'd like to know.

S - What will you gain?

A - Baba!

Later....

S - Well, feel any different?

A - No.

S - Told you. Better to be with Me.

Baba explained to me that in one day He had to correct me four times re carrying out His wishes. It is difficult to overcome one's own will. Surrendering your will to the divine (actually to anyone) is infinitely difficult. I just hope it will come in time. Within the center (bal vikas) we had a few differences of opinion, and I voiced my own to a friend. Baba was not pleased. He told me to watch the drama unfold without taking part. Almost impossible to do since it concerned our group trip to India.

20th February Saturday

Not really had a chance to speak to Him as I was too engrossed in watching the Christmas video of Prasanthi

- S - When a child is wrong one does not discard the child - you teach and correct it like I do you. So must you do this for those in error.
- A - Yes, but how will we cope in India?
- S - Leave it to Me and watch how I arrange things and learn. This trip I will take the responsibility and organise everything including managing the people. Next time you must use your judgement.
- A - Alright Baba.

21st February Sunday

While doing my morning prayers Baba pointed out that love was the most important factor and that I tended to forget that in the ritual worship of the 1008 names.

- S - You have forgotten again.
- A - You do like love, do you not?
- S - People do not realise how important love is. Even if you have nothing else you can accomplish everything with love alone.

Since it was parents' day for bal vikas there was not much time to talk to Baba but in the evening, I went up to pray and Baba said He wanted something to eat.

- A - Baba you cannot eat. We only eat once a day.
- S - I'm hungry!
- A - You cannot be hungry.
- S - I am.
- A - But Baba you said one meal a day only.
- S - I know what I said but I'm now hungry.
- A - This must be my imagination. Subconsciously I probably desire food. Besides I'll have an upset stomach if I eat this late (8.30pm) at night.
- S - I'll take care of that.
- A - What if I refuse to eat.
- S - I'll starve.
- A - But I don't want to eat.
- S - You said we share one body, and I want to eat.

Still not trusting myself I placed slips before Baba and prayed. The answer was 'yes'.

- A - What do you want to eat, toast?
- S - No.

- A - Chips?
 S - No.
 A - Cake?
 S - No.
 A - Indian?
 S - No.
 A - Mashed potatoes and vegetables etc?
 S - Yes.

.
 Still dubious about this, I placed slips of all the food items and believe it or not it came up mash! There could not be two such coincidences. in a row. We ate and of course I did not suffer any ill effects. I asked Baba to show me how to develop the inner contact with Him into a strong voice instead of thought waves.

22nd February Monday

I dreamt that I was at a hotel in Bangalore. I asked the owner to book in advance for the children. She said it was not necessary. I then saw my niece slide down a spiral slide. Taking her, I tried to find my way up so that I too could do the same. But the stairs were too narrow, and I came up against a block. The rest of the staircase seemed to be closed off. It was a lack of understanding and the fact that the door had only just opened, and it would take time to develop. Ego is a major bar to progress.

23rd February Tuesday

I was so excited about the trip and could not sleep. Finally, I dozed and saw that I was in darshan at Prasanthi. Some members of the group, X and his father and others were on the verandah. Baba was about to toss some flowers, so everyone extended their hands ready to catch. I did not. Surprisingly enough the flowers landed in my hands. They were three white roses. I did not actually see Baba. I am disappointed but Baba insists that I develop the inner contact. The roses represent purity in thought, word and deed in the paths of work, worship and wisdom. My nephew was born today, Due to the pressures of worldly existence I noticed that the inner contact was a little less strong. This worried me.

- A - Do you wish me to stay here (In the labour room with my sister. She had insisted)
 S - Yes.
 A - Why?
 S - Because one day you will have to deliver a baby.

Later

- S - This is the pain that God also feels, (remember the scene I showed you years ago in that dream, (of Baba in pain), at the separation from His bhakta. You tell me that you love Me and that your yearning, devotion is strong and that you feel agony at My distance, but I equally feel the same pain and long to see you too.

This is how a trip becomes possible. The positive and negative current both. Your yearning on its own cannot accomplish it.

25th February Thursday

Two dreams this morning as I had asked Baba to confirm if He really wanted me to write down His conversations with me in book form. I was in a hall and Baba's clothes had just been washed and were lying around. Baba was laughing and joking. I prayed for the opportunity to iron them. End of dream. I told Baba that that was not enough and so the second dream. I went through some rooms and came to Baba lying down. I did namaskar. Baba said, 'It's not enough to know the last birth, one must find out the first birth'. Then He was quite close and loving to me.

A - How to find out the first birth Baba?

S - By the meditation you do - in silence without thoughts. I will tell you then.

Despite all His grace the last few days I have been very off and irritated. His advice is there but not as evident and clear as before. What I fail to understand is how this happens. Why we are unable to stop ourselves from becoming immersed in the world. His love amazes me - even though my mind is dark with undesirable thoughts and minor annoyances. He stays with me throughout, still loving, full of kindness and forgiveness, ever ready to 'play'. Not only this but recently to teach me that 'God resides in all ' He grants a vision of His form in other hearts as well, so I must needs think twice before saying anything out of turn.

27th February Saturday

The last few days I have been so immersed in worldly matters that though Baba was there for me I was not for Him. Today I am making a special effort to reverse that situation. After typing up the last lot of notes I was speaking to Baba re being nearest and dearest to Him. I laid down various criteria which would mean He loved me. One of which was His shakshatkar darshan here itself.

S - I'll come but you must do sadhana to gain the experience.

A - What must I do?

S - Do what you did before in 1988.

A - But you did not come then.

S - I will now. Try it.

A - But Baba if I wait up till 10pm every night and then awake at 4am for prayers and typing I shall be very tired.

S - So! That is what must be. God is not so easily attained, and some discomfort is inevitable.

A - How long for?

S - A month

A - That's O.K.

- S - Not so hard, is it?
 A - I'll do it but you have to come, promise?
 S - I will.

While working in the morning someone suggested an unworthy act of revenge. Immediately I flared up in protest. The person was extremely annoyed with me and so was I, at my own anger. (After all it was only a minor thing.)

- A - I'm sorry Baba I should not have - I could not help it.
 S - It's alright, you did right.
 A - You are not angry with me? Despite the fact that what was proposed was wrong I should not have acted the way I did.
 S - It was necessary to put a stop to it. Now you understand how I feel when one of my children decides to carry out a wrong on another. Even though one may have been wronged at first it is not correct to be vengeful. For Me they are equally beloved. Let karma take its toll. Never take the law into your own hands.

This incident was of such vital importance that Baba insisted I note it down straight away. Later when I was singing bhajans to myself.

- S - Do you prefer singing bhajans to speaking with Me?
 A - Of course not - What would you like to talk about?
 S - Anything.
 A - You know I love you so much.
 S - It is nothing compared to My love for you and the whole world.
 A - You certainly have an excellent way of disguising it when I come to Prasanthi.
 S - Is this not love? My being with you like this?
 A - Yes but how many years did I have to wait for it? (8 years)
 S - Have you ever thought of the all the years I had to wait for you? That is exactly why I asked you to find out about the first birth. What was the time between then and now?
 A - I see.

Later I put my niece to sleep for her after noon nap. She looked so lovely it was impossible to resist cuddling her.

- S - Look how you find her irresistible. I too love my bhaktas with the same love. To Me they are as lovable as she is to you. Despite their imperfections and foibles, I care for them as a mother does for her spoilt child.

The bal vikas children have been engaged in a project of self improvement in the hope that Baba would call them to Prasanthi Nilayam. It involved total commitment in practicing the nine steps:

- 1) No television
- 2) Saving energy
- 3) Early morning prayers (fixed time)
- 4) Evening Gayatri mala
- 5) Ceiling on desires (money, food, time and energy)
- 6) Doing one's duty
- 7) Loving all
- 8) Non attachment
- 9) Loving God

The children were so committed that they missed television at Christmas. Some of them had already reached the top.

A - Baba what is the next step after reaching the top?

S - Tell them to live in My presence constantly. Converse with Me, Love Me, live with Me from moment to moment as I expect you to.

28th February Sunday

The trip which was on was suddenly called off as there had been a hitch with the National Council. Naturally I was upset. Baba remained silent. Then a thought went through my mind that it was just like the Council to interfere.

A - Baba what is happening? How can you say 'no'? It cannot be. You said we could come.

S - You will. Why can't you be patient? I told you that I will take care of everything. Why blame others? As soon as something goes awry the human tendency is to blame someone. Why can't you see Me in others and their actions?

A - Baba please make them say yes to my trip. The children must come.

S - It is NOT your trip. Who are YOU?. Are you doing all this for your gratification?

A - No but I want to come too.

S - Then leave everything to Me. This is all a learning process for you. Never think that anyone acts outside of My will. All carry out My wishes and if it is My will that you should come then YOU WILL. Live in that certainty.

A - Ok. Baba, but please do not tease with this 'yes' and 'no'.

Telephoned my friend to discover that the outcome of the meeting was that we could still go but the conditions had changed slightly as Baba insisted that each child must be accompanied by one parent. I was overjoyed.

S - See! Why don't you trust Me?

A - I do Baba but at times things seem impossible.

S - I love you all so much that I want to 'call' you often and that would not have been possible had you come as part of a larger group.

- A - How many times?
- S - Many times. I'll give you more than you could ever dream off.
- A - Baba you're wonderful.
- S - I know.

“The distance between you and
God is the distance between
you and yourself.”

-Sri Sathya Sai Baba-

Chapter 2

Trust

1st March Monday

I was fasting today and had already eaten my meal and was cooking for my sister as she was returning from hospital today with the baby.

- S - Cook with love. You are cooking for Me remember.
- A - Baba You are not eating today so how can it be for you?
- S - It is for the Sai in your sister.
- A - Hmmm. (smile).
- S - You eat it also.
- A - I cannot, I'm fasting.
- S - Does not matter you can eat if I say so.
- A - No. Baba You are far more important to me than food and I want to come to You.
- S - You will, just eat.
- A - But I only eat once a day and I have already eaten, so how can I?
- S - Because I say so.
- A - Can you really be saying this or is it me?
- S - When will you learn to trust Me? Am I not speaking to you?
- A - Yes, but I'll check with prayer slips.
- The slip came up ' No '.
- A - See you were lying!
- S - I am not. I am testing you. I want you to have total and complete faith in my words not in a piece of paper. You must believe what I tell you.
- A - Why Baba?
- S - It is essential for spiritual progress. Don't you remember when Krishna asked Arjuna ' Is that a dove ' ? Arjuna agreed with whatever Krishna said. Arjuna did not argue with Krishna that He had changed the form of the bird 4 times, did he? He accepted the Lord's word as final. That is the total and complete faith I wish you to have despite what things may seem to be. There are no rituals that bind, no fasts, no duty, nothing but My word. When I ask you to do something do it without question. You can fast tomorrow if you wish though there is no need for when you live with Me like this each and every day is a fast.
- A - I cannot believe Your having the desire to eat.
- S - I do not - but I cannot bear to see you not have what YOU want. Your being happy is My joy also.

2nd March 1993

Annoyance in my mind as there is much to do.

- S - There should not be any preference. Do what is necessary. Live without thought. Do not think this is good, this is not good, just do.
- A - Baba that would be living like a saint or sanyasi. I cannot do that. I am not like that at all.
- S - Yes, and it is how all should learn to live. But there is a difference, a sanyasi forces himself to acquire a steady unwavering mind through discipline and tapasya. He destroys his sense of like and

dislike through this method. However, the saint, the bhakta has no other thoughts than the pleasure of his beloved Lord and so automatically fails to notice anything for himself as regards food, clothing or environment. so engrossed in the divine is he.

A - So they both achieve the same end.

S - Yes but how different the paths - one of austerity and hardship and the other of joy and love.

In the evening, we were talking, and Baba had just offered me His feet for namaskar when I was obliged to reply to someone else in the room.

S - See how you leave Me waiting! And then you return just because I am always here now.

A - Sorry Baba - I have to see to my worldly duties as well.

S - I understand but you do not. When you come to Prasanthi you complain so much that Swami does not always give an interview or carry out all your wishes. I too am in the same position. I have to carry out all My avataric tasks first. I must see to all the urgent matters which only I know require my immediate attention. And though I may wish to call you every time I am constrained by circumstances and cannot.

3rd March Wednesday

Although we spoke all day, Baba would make observations, and I reply or vice versa it was not important enough to be of interest to the readers. God is always there but do we have the time for Him? A great deal of time is lost in useless meanderings in spite of the knowledge of His presence. However, the instant my thoughts return to Him and I 'see' Baba in my heart an indescribable joy wells up from my heart and fills my whole being with bliss. It is sheer delight to silently revel in that rapture. Baba's terms and expressions are saturated with such exquisite sweetness that they leave me speechless. Occasionally Baba will ask me to sit quietly with Him for a while to dwell in His love.

S - To sit in silence with Me is enough. That in itself will accomplish the miracle of change within you.

A - Have I changed in the last three weeks?

S - Slightly though you probably may not see the difference. The soul atma is gaining awareness through purification. Your daily contact with Me is responsible for this.

A - If this much can happen in a few weeks how long before mergence?

S - Long way yet. The path to mukthi is not easy nor short. Many trials lie ahead. Much has to be overcome. This link is My grace showered upon you but there is much you yourself must do before you are ready for liberation.

A - Will it be difficult?

S - It depends on what you call 'difficult'.

A - Will it mean worldly suffering as has happened in the last four years?

S - Three years only! No, it will not be so. Only inner upheaval, correction change not suffering - My grace will always be there to take away any pain.

A - Thank You dearest Baba.

4th March Thursday

Since this morning, I have been out of sorts, irrationally so. There was no logical reason for it. The more it increased the further apart I felt from Baba. In all probability it was my imagination, but it seemed as if there was a distance between us emotionally and personally despite the fact that Baba continued to speak to me.

A - Baba why do I feel as I do - I should not?

B - There is no real cause for it.

A - This is exactly what happened last week.

S - I know.

A - How can I stop it?

S - Think only of Me - Keep the link open.

The pressure within simmered as I forgot to do so.

A - Baba please help. I do not want to lose contact with You.

S - Think of all the pleasant things. Darshans at Prasanthi, the interviews, My love showered on you, beautiful thoughts.

It helped a little. I went to town, but all my tasks went awry.

A - Baba why is everything going wrong?

S - It is because of your frame of mind. When a person is unsettled within the outer world will mirror it also. You will note that when you are happy inside the response outside will reflect you. The outer world reacts and resounds the inner.

A - So love and happiness really do make the world go round!

S - Of course, without them all would be chaos. Try something, take away love from every person and thing, what happens? Even atom will not join with atom. The universe as you know it would disintegrate.

A - But how can I avoid this depression coming over me like this? For days I am perfectly content then all of a sudden without warning every little thing grates upon me.

S - Some of it has to do with the food you eat. You must be very careful and always watch what you eat and even more importantly who prepared it. For instance, these last two days you have been eating food cooked by others who are susceptible to negative emotions, the buns from the bakery etc. All this has contributed to your state of mind today.

A - How can that be? Before I eat, I offer everything to You, how can it still affect me?

S - Sometimes you forget to offer nevertheless, there are subtle influences which are not removed by merely uttering a routine prayer and so the effects contained in the food are transferred to certain persons. For example, on a grey or dark paper a smudge may not be noticeable but on a white sheet of paper even a tiny speck will be visible.

A - So what should I do?

S - Keep yourself centered entirely on Me at all times. This you are failing to do in spite of My presence here. Next, try and prepare all you eat yourself for a while and see the difference. Be even more

strict with yourself as regards manufactured products. Your mind is such that it is easily affected by the environment, vibrations around you and food. You are in the early stages of devotion and so are not steady enough to overcome the onslaught of external forces. You recall the bad dream you had last week after watching a few minutes of an innocuous tv program.

- A - Yes but Baba it is not practical to be so strict all the time. I am obliged to live in the world also. What can I do at weddings etc where I am surrounded by an atmosphere of revelry?
- S - As far as is possible it is up to you to control the desire for certain unsuitable things. When you attend functions, you are not obliged to take part only to be present. While so doing ensure that the link with Me is open - converse with Me as you do now, and nothing will affect you. The damage happens when you close off the connect and become immersed in the world. All that is required is to move and act externally whilst remaining engrossed in Me internally.
- A - Thanks Baba I feel so much better now. Sometimes when I call You why don't You answer?
- S - That is because you call with the mind alone. At this early stage to contact Me you must visualise Me in your heart first. Later it will come automatically but for now that process is necessary.
- A - While I was in town I spoke to You but did not picture You there!
- S - Which is why there was no response.
- A - But if You are 'always there' why don't You answer Yourself?
- S - Because at the moment when you interact with the world, unknowingly you shut off the link with Me and that is something only you can open, otherwise were I to control it you would gain nothing and learn nothing. It is like a child taking its first steps no matter how difficult the mother cannot take them for the child, can she? Similarly, you can only coordinate one thing at a time for now until, with experience, you acquire the knowledge to act worldly while being with Me.
- A - How long will it take?
- S - It will come with practice and depend on how much effort you put in.
- A - Love you Baba.
- S - That's the first time you have said it today and it is 4pm!
- A - I know. Sorry I forgot.
- S - Forgiven! You have not noticed, the pressure within has been dissolved.
- A - So it has.
- S - Remember you asked Me to do so recently.
- A - It is beautiful talking to you.

Later.

- A - Baba after all You have done for me why am I not as I should be? If I fail, will You leave me?
- S - I would never leave you. I have waited all these thousands of births for you to reach this stage where you love Me and voluntarily seek mergence - so how can I leave you now?
- A - Baba the character change required is so much that I despair of ever becoming as You wish me to be.

- S - If you had knowledge of your past incarnations and what you were like then you would not be so pessimistic. A long road has already been traversed.
- A - Tell or show me.
- S - I will when the time is right for you to know such things.

5th March Friday

- A - Baba no matter what You tell me and whatever happens, at the back of my mind, I can't help but think that perhaps this is all a figment of my imagination. I wish You would do something to destroy the skepticism.
- S - What do you expect Me to do?
- A - Anything that would clear the issue for good.
- S - Doubt cannot be removed so easily - at the moment whatever I do it will remain.
- A - So!
- S - Wait until you come in August then you will receive your answer.
- A - The interviews you mean.
- S - Yes.
- A - Until then?
- S - Continue to note down all that happens, it does no harm.
- A - Baba please teach me how to interact with the world while maintaining the link with You.
- S - Whenever you are speaking with anyone continue to visualise Me in your heart. By now you have realised that you can only 'see' Me there with your eyes open, have you not?
- A - Yes and it seems most strange. I thought there was something wrong because when I close my eyes, I cannot see You at all.
- S - That is because to see Me with eyes closed means that you must do so in meditation, I have deliberately bestowed the grace of visions with your eyes open so that you may eventually be with Me 24 hours a day as per your wish.
- A - Thank You so much Baba. I'm not very good at meditation anyway. So, if I only remember to 'see' You in my heart the link will not break?
- S - Yes and though you may be acting in worldly affairs in truth you will be one with Me and all your responses will be Mine.
- A - Did You mind my not typing this morning? I was tired.
- S - Not tired. Lazy.
- A - Love you Baba.
- S - Obviously you think that you can escape correction and censure merely by voicing your affection for Me!
- A - Worth trying, isn't it?
- S - Children!

Later we were discussing desires and how each one creates an impression which MUST be fulfilled at some point before liberation can be achieved. Baba was reminding me of some of mine. My reply was that I was no longer interested in them. Baba said that despite my attitude now they would nevertheless have to be fulfilled. This brought us to the topic of Karma.

- A - Baba what about certain persons who declare that they are only doing God's duty and that nothing is theirs neither their actions nor karma. They insist that due to this belief of theirs God must needs

accept all their karma on Himself as stated in the Gita, so they are free from worldly bonds.

- S - Not true. God only accepts the karma of one who is no longer concerned with worldly affairs because only such a person will be incapable of doing harm, in thought, word and deed. All others speak words, but their actions betray them.
- A - But such persons seem to be happy in the worldly sense
- S - That is the result of past karma. Remember that only one who loves God is subject to suffering and tests (according to worldly standards) and also, great joy. Others are left to experience the consequences of their previous actions. To offer your actions to God by saying 'all is Your will' and yet have emotions of anger and revenge etc - never will God accept the karma of such a person.

Later I could 'see' Baba lying on a sofa in my heart having a rest.

- A - May I massage Your feet?
- S - Yes but do not tickle.
- A - Baba can I have one of your dhoti's?
- S - One day I'll give you not just the dhoti but a robe also and then you can take out as many threads as you like and give them to the people who come to your place for help.
- A - Do You mean that Baba?
- S - Yes. You will not have to 'steal' them then!
- A - I did not. You gave them to me.
- S - I know, only teasing.

As we were talking my sister-in-law disturbed us. I asked her not to do so in future if I happened to appear as if in thought. My family are not aware of Baba being with me always.

- S - You should not have said that.
- A - Why?
- S - You are not a great scholar who has to think - only rewriting what I have said.
- A - Yes but I don't wish to be disturbed.
- S - The whole point of this is that you learn to live with and hear Me whilst being 'disturbed'.
- A - O.k. Baba why are You with me like this?
- S - Because you wanted Me to be with you always whilst you translated the book 'Sai Charan Kamal', did you not?
- A - Yes but I never dreamt that You would really come.
- S - I always grant all the wishes of My devotees more especially when their yearning is for Me. That is why I always insist that you be careful what you ask for.
- A - What I really wanted was shakshatkar darshan like You gave to Kamal.
- S - That too will come in time.
- A - Gosh, life's worth living, if it is with You. Baba, before this I could not see the point of living again and again to suffer the misery of this world. Even though I have had a decent life I only noticed the ups and down's never what people call the joy of living. To me life was an ordeal and the sooner it was over the better. I wondered if there was a way out of this circle of suffering.
- S - And that is exactly why you found Me.

- A - I'm glad You called me Baba but even with Your presence and promise it seems a trial at times.
- S - If you lived in God all day long you would fail to be aware of anything else and life would become a joy to live and enjoy.
- A - I'm trying.
- S - And one day with grace you will succeed.
- A - Promise?
- S - I promise.

6th March Saturday

This morning, I had an unusual dream with Baba. At first someone told me that I had become quite remote and that I was not there 30% of the time. Then I was seated in meditation with a flame before me when Baba came and asked me

- S - What's this?
- A - A sacrificial flame people have lit for me.
- S - Not needed. (Baba tried to capture the flame with His hands but it eluded Him. (Baba then said) No.
- A - Yes (meaning the flame should remain separate)
- S - No.
- A - Yes.
- S - No. (The flame went into Him)

The night before I had asked Baba if all this was true as expressed in the forgoing conversations. The 30% obviously meant that I was with Him only that much time a day. Last night Baba wished me to sit with Him. I fell asleep, so this morning He adamantly refused to wake up, remaining firmly ensconced in His bed. We were expecting guests and so I was busy preparing lunch and yet had to cajole Baba into waking.

- A - Baba please get up.
- S - No, much you care.
- A - I do.
- S - You fell asleep last night.
- A - I'm sorry I was tired. You cannot stay like this all day.
- S - Try me!
- A - Baba I haven't got time to play games I have lots of work to do.
- S - You never have time - that is what the dream was about.
- A - What do You mean?
- S - You only spend a third of your time with Me and the spark of the atma eludes union with Me due to this tendency of your mind to wander here there and everywhere.
- A - I am trying Baba - I suppose I should really be with You 70% of the time.
- S - 100% is what I expect.
- A - Alright. Now how about getting up?
- S - What will you give Me if I do?
- A - Anything You like - What would You like?
- S - Breakfast!
- A - Baba You can't have breakfast now, it's too late I'm busy cooking dinner. I'll make you anything You wish for lunch.
- S - No, breakfast
- A - Alright, what for breakfast?
- S - Now you're annoyed!

- A - I'm NOT. What?
 S - Toast and cheese toast.
 A - I'll make them for You. NOW will You get up and shave or whatever else it is You do
 S - Yes.

And so, Baba had breakfast at 10.45 am. What other purpose can there be to these dramas other than that He is trying to focus and steady my concentration on Him. To what lengths God goes for us?

Later...

- A - Can I go to bhajans tonight?
 S - We will see.
 A - I would really like to go.
 S - Maybe I would prefer you to stay here with Me!

I declined to reply. He quite contentedly watched me work. Our guests were not 'best' friends, in fact quite the opposite. But this time I had trained myself to be 'unattached' and hospitable. Nevertheless, shock waves shot through me as they asked for a favor. Most ill-judged considering their past behavior. My parents did not refuse. Turmoil with a capital T.

- A - I shall not attend the wedding.
 S - You go. Do not let it affect you, remember you are with Me. After all, what belongs to whom? If they wish to use it, let them.
 A - But look what they did to us?
 S - I know - but why should you shoulder the discredit for something that will happen anyway? You be happy. What has been done must be accounted for, the law of karma is inexorable. See how the ego is bloated. Well, pride always goes before a fall, is it not?
 A - You mean it will happen to them also.
 S - You doubt My words. It WILL. However, in spite of your thoughts now, though you will witness it you will derive no satisfaction from it - for you will be with Me all hours of the day.
 A - Truly Baba? I do not want these types of thoughts. I want only to be with You. You know the really good thing is that I did not explode in anger. It must be the food I am eating and being with You. It's too late to go to bhajans I think I'll stay here with You.

Later on, as I watched my nephew I was overawed by the incredibility of a new life. If this is how I felt about creation, ran my thoughts, then how much more pleased, and with good reason, must You be with the universe You have created? Everything has a place and order and is well balanced with all others.

- A - Baba You are absolutely wonderful to stay with me through my temper times and I love You so.
 He smiled.

7 March Sunday

Evening - Baba said No to eating.

- A - Baba You have not spoken of anything interesting today.
 S - You are failing to practice what I have already taught you so what is the purpose in wasting time.

- A - You mean these last 2 days and having 2 meals.
- S - Yes.
- A - But You agreed. Why did You not tell me then?
- S - There are times when because you desire something very much, I will echo it - but only to instruct you in the incorrectness of that action. I have already explained how excessive food prohibits communion with Me. You very conveniently decided to overlook My direction.
- A - You mean that You left me all day due to this.
- S - No, I never left you, would never leave you. I only remained silent waiting for you to discover the cause. Remember this always that with regards to certain things I will wait for you to learn yourself. So, you must always be aware of what pleases or displeases Me. Search within yourself whether the desire is yours or Mine. Constant practice of this will ensure you never stray from the right path.
- A - Alright Baba. Baba why aren't the children moving up the chart. This worries me. Some I know are trying very hard so You should inform them of where they are.
- S - Let me be the judge of that. I know who is trying and who is not. Some of the children are not practicing the precepts. I will move them up at the right time. If I move them all up now, they will be under the impression that they have succeeded in their sadhana and will then stop practicing the steps. Initially, to give impetus to the project, the already 'good' children were given signs of My presence to encourage the others. Now that the trip is definite, they must double their efforts. This applies to the teachers also.
- A - How Baba?
- S - Tell all to practice My constant presence. Live the days with Me. You are asking for a mountain of grace and so much will be expected of you also.
- A - How can I make the children understand this.
- S - Leave it to Me. I will speak through you to the children.
- A - Thank You Baba for all your grace in guiding us on the path to you.

8th March Monday

This morning, I 'heard' Baba speaking to me whilst asleep unfortunately I turned over and the complete message was lost. However, the gist of it was 'For those of My devotees who are old - not the new ones - but My very long time beloved devotees at Prasanthi, I do everything for them. Each little task is my duty and love to perform. Later in the day I was ruminating on the reason for this disclosure.

- S - It refers to My love for the ones who rely entirely upon Me, seeking no other source of assistance or consolation. They have 110% faith and devotion and so for them I am bound to do everything. This is how I wish you to be. Do you remember what I told you about the handful of devotees at Prasanthi in 1987? They are the ones who earn, deserve and win My love in such a fashion. Then, you also was one of those. Become so again.
- A - But why tell me all this now?
- S - To remind you of your spiritual state then - become as detached as you were then. Witness the events around you, do not allow yourself to become entangled in them. Leave the worrying to Me.

- A - I was just thinking of mother's expectations regarding my future and how she wishes me to be married soon. What if it does not happen?
I may not be permitted to come to You in July.
- S - Knowing this is why I have tried to warn you this morning. Give no thought to such doubts. What I have said will be. YOU WILL COME. Have faith. Is it not strange that you enjoin the children to have implicit faith in Me and yet harbor doubts on your own behalf?
- A - I know I should not. Baba talk to me all day please.
- S - I will stay and be with you.

I also dreamt that two children wished to go with us, but I refused them on the grounds that they were not doing their sadhana. Their mother got an office job and complained to me and so I explained that it was a ruse to get them to practice.

9th March Tuesday

Two mornings in a row it was almost impossible to sleep again after the typing. This morning, I was woken up at 7.30am. As I reached the bottom of the stairs.

- S - Why don't you bring your notebook down as well?
- A - Why?
- S - To write of course. Why do you think I woke you up so soon?
- A - Not to mention the fact that You have not let me sleep for two days either. I knew it. You not only wish me to retire at 10pm but also expect me to wake at 4am and NOT have a quick 40 winks after.
- S - Why don't you go to bed at 9.30pm and wake at 4am for good?
- A - Very generous of You Baba, all of a whole extra half hour? I shall die of exhaustion! Then You will not have anyone to play with, just think of that?
- S - Do not exaggerate - nothing will happen to you and what is more you will get a lot more work done.
- A - Thanks but I don't share your confidence. Think of my mental state.
- S - Think of the second book you will have ready for July?
- A - You win. But if I die cremate me at Prashanti! Baba, this question that one of the children brought up on Sunday about the reason why You grant interviews. I shall have to tackle it sometime otherwise it may affect the unity of the group as different views are held by all.
- S - Interviews are granted on the basis of devotion, karma, need and grace. Love and grace are the only two that stand by themselves without needing the other two. Meaning that if your love for Baba is overwhelming and beyond all bounds Baba cannot but help come to you and give whatever it is that you want i.e. interview, smile, charansparsh etc. The response is dictated by the level of love you have for Baba. Sometimes even when it is not a possibility as you may be in the company of someone who is 'karmically' not ready for an interview, your love will make Baba still respond in the same way as I did in your case when I granted you an interview without the knowledge of your mother. As regards karma and need, they are interdependent but can be altered or overlooked depending on the love factor. For instance, let us say that your previous karma was such that you earned God's grace in plenty and now in this life you have fallen ill or have serious problems

however you have no faith or belief in God. In this situation Baba is obliged to call and help you due to your past merits. You then have the opportunity to change. But if that does not happen and the grace previously acquired is exhausted then Baba will become distant and depending on your samskaras' you will either a) develop devotion b) fall away. Now, you also know that some people come to Baba but still do not get interview or cure. In such situations it could be that the problem is due to past karma. In this instance Baba will not usually interfere UNLESS that person has the devotion necessary. If love is there karma, is no bar. My Grace is a special category, and it is available to all - It means that nothing can come between you and Me. That again is governed by two conditions one of which is MY WILL. If I choose to grant, then none of the above applies and I have My own reasons for so doing. And the other is again love. No matter what your past, present or future, if your love for Baba is great then My grace is automatic. Does this answer your question?

- A - Mine, yes but I will ask the children. Baba, I have just thought of something. All the possibilities You have explained apply to the individual what about groups Baba? How do You expect a group to behave? What is more important, love or discipline?
- S - In a group even though all the forgoing factors may be present I look for unity. It is a sadhana for people of different races, back grounds and beliefs to come as one and to remain at Prasanthi without factions and arguments and to accept the authority of a person without question with love. Therefore, unity is the most important. But you will note that there can be no unity without love present in a group then they will automatically receive an interview. If unity is absent, it follows that the other qualities are lacking also and so then the first four factors take priority, and they must be STRONG for Baba to give interview.
- S - As you are aware so many thousands of people and hundreds of groups come now to Prasanthi and Baba has to decide who deserves and who needs interview. So do not be guided by what you see others do. As the saying goes 'One man's meat is another man's poison. Meaning that the behavior that is acceptable in one person, due to grace earned in a past life, is not appropriate in another who does not possess the same. I am aware that you want to win My love and grace. Carry on in the way you are, and you will.
- A - Thank you Baba I shall explain all this to the children. Now going back to book number two - You really and truly wish me to put together a book of my dreams?
- S - Yes but do so in the quiet of the morning so that we can both pick out the ones that are meaningful and useful.
- A - O.K., I want You to come in my dream and specifically give me this order.
- S - Still you do not trust My presence. I will.
- A - You only have two mornings as I would like to start on Thursday morning.
- S - Not to worry.
- A - Baba how are You going to bless three books? Come to that how am I going to bring three heavy files into You?

- S - I shall warn you of the day I shall be calling you in for an interview before hand.
- A - Alright, what about publication?
- S - Questions and doubts! If I have authorized the writing, will I not also arrange for the publication?

Later whilst reading about Ramakrishna's saying that whenever he thought about God within himself, he actually felt His presence there and that He drew him within. I was struck by the similarity of Baba's presence in my heart.

- S - It is not the same thing yet. What happens to you at the moment is like the initial presence with Kamal 'like a picture for you do not lose all consciousness of the world, do you? Later it will be so.

Later....

- A - I have finished all the work I set myself today. Bal vikas is up to date, now only the play remains.
- S - See the advantage in rising early?
- A - The afternoon is all ours for a few hours at least.
- S - Why don't you start sorting through the dreams for the book now?
- A - Do I have to?
- S - What else do you propose to do for the next couple of hours?
- A - Absolutely nothing - only sit with You and learn wisdom.
- S - Wisdom cannot be acquired by learning, it is gained by experience only which is why I instruct you through daily events.
- A - What I meant was talk to You and be with You.
- S - You could still do that whilst working.
- A - You win. You always do. One condition though, You must speak to me throughout.
- S - Agreed.

Later after glancing through some of them...

- A - I'm not in the mood Baba. I have looked through them and to be honest I do not think they are worth publishing. What possible interest can they hold for others?
- S - Read Sai Darshan.
- A - Ah! So, this is how You wish me to write them down.
- S - Yes.
- A - But Baba after all these years I cannot remember the events or circumstances under which I had those dreams.
- S - You will recollect everything about the dreams I wish you to write.
- A - O.K. I suppose it is worth a try.

Later.

- A - Baba I could never write like that.
- S - It is not you who will 'do', you are only the instrument.
- A - Why are You insisting on them being made into a book? They can be of no particular interest to anyone but me.
- S - Two reasons, firstly I desire that you should relive those years to realise and achieve the depth of devotion you possessed then. And secondly, in the years to come, when millions crowd where now there are only thousands daily and the only hope of darshan

is a speck in the distance, there will be a need for every available book on Me. All these books on Sai will show these people how to reach Me. How to win My love and grace. Have you not noticed how each book elaborates the experience of a unique path to Me? That is because each person and path, their way to God is different.

A - Baba, that's all very well however one does not learn through books but through trial and error. Sadhana and attaining God is a very personal experience. Besides You are the inner motivator, and You will be guiding them through dreams, visions, etc as You have me, will You not?

S - Of course I will but even you realise that for God to respond some effort is necessary from the devotee. It is this information which they will require in the early stages that they will gain from the books until they have established their own personal link with Me. Your books will illuminate the royal path of love to Me.

A - Baba I do not love you as one should at all. My love for You always falls short of the ideal I seek. For though my goal is to love You to the exclusion of all else I fail in my resolve as other motives and attachments claim my attention.

S - Nevertheless the yearning to love, to please, to constantly be with Me is there, is it not? So, the fullness of love will be achieved in time. From now until the end of your life nothing can ever come between you and Me. Immerse yourself in Me and forget all else.

A - How can I Baba? Who will play my part in the world then?

S - I will act through your person.

10th March Wednesday

This morning after prayers as I picked up the vibhuti box it slipped and fell from my hands and a cascade of vibhuti landed on my hand, the carpet and table. My initial reaction was one of horrification as I assumed it to be a 'bad omen'. Then I recalled that kum-kum so falling is considered auspicious, so I accepted this to be so also. I dreamt of Baba, kissed both His hands and feet. Baba laughed saying 'Don't go too far'. He blessed me by placing His hand on my head. As I left, I asked for vibhuti. Baba blew on His hand and a spray of the precious dust lay sprinkled on my hand just as it had in the morning. After prayers in the morning my normal practice is to enter my heart where Baba is, do His aarthi and then kiss both his hands and feet. Is Baba trying to impress upon me the unity of His presence in my heart, in dreams the omnipresence of God!

A - Baba why did you say, 'Don't go too far'? (Baba was silent and I had to ask again)

S - I was teasing, joking. Nothing to do with anything just between you and Me.

A - Why didn't You answer straightaway?

S - I was dressing.

A - Oh! You do not have separate rooms in my heart, do You?

S - If I live here 24hrs of the day then of course I have all the facilities, bedroom, lounge etc.

A - But You don't NEED such things, do You?

S - No, it's nice to play. After all this whole universe is a play of maya, is it not?

A - I suppose it is. Only one does not think of it as such for it seems so real.

Even so for me television has become incongruous for it is a drama within a drama.

- S - If only more people could view it in the same way. To play a game of love, of hide and seek with God, the soul takes birth. Then you in your ignorance, to escape the anxieties of living seek solace in another world of illusions and fictional characters instead of turning to God. However, there is a lesson to be learnt even from this for one should realise that just as these television dramas can have no real or lasting effect on your life so also the phenomenal world around you and the events that take place within it cannot affect or harm the essential you, the atma.
- A - Baba why did You come this morning for You still haven't said anything specific about the book.
- S - I came because You wanted me.
- A - I call You every day and You do not come every day!
- S - Had you let Me finish I was going to say that I wanted you to understand the vital importance of belief, faith and thought. They are extremely powerful. Recollect that your first thought on the vibhuti spilling was that it was a bad omen - had you continued to hold this belief then it would have been so. But as soon as you came to the conclusion that it forecast auspiciousness it became so. That is the strength of the power that thought wields.
- A - Baba had I continued in my first surmise what would have happened?
- S - The strength and fear of your belief that something ominous would take place would have ensured that it did.
- A - So just by belief it, whatever it was, was averted?
- S - Yes.
- A - Baba, can this affect everything in one's life?
- S - Not all because you are born with certain karma's which must be gone through. However, good thoughts and the unshakeable faith that nothing can harm one can slightly mitigate it. More importantly one's whole life is not governed by past karma - much of it is shaped by your behavior now. Those are the parts that ARE affected by thought power.
- A - I never realised the extent of the implications of thought power. Baba, may I tell the children?
- S - By all means do so.
- A - Baba last week You said that you would make every word You say to Me true. Does that apply to past dreams too?
- S - Of course. Have you not been told in Bombay already about the center, My being close to You, these books and the things I will give you.
- A - Yes but. This trip to India we met a man who forecast the future in detail for us and many of the things he said to me Baba had already informed me of in dreams).
- S - Well, here I am with you so why the 'but'? What I say is not bound by time, but it WILL happen.
- A - What if You give specific time?
- S - Then it will be so in that time period providing you also have implicit faith in My words. Your faith or doubts can speed or delay My will.
- A - So I should find a partner by the end of the month.
- S - You should but at the moment you doubt the possibility. Destroy the doubts, believe My word and it will happen.

- A - Will You come tomorrow morning and confirm this and about book two?
- S - You rely too much on dreams.
- A - Please Baba this once at least.
- S - I will come.
- A - Love You lots
- S - Long time since you said that!
- A - Baba what about the visions I have whilst awake now? I can see any form of God I think of, are they real?
- S - My grace. They are real, not imagination. Slowly in time I will prove this to you.

Later while sitting with Baba, I experienced an urge to do puja from start to finish including cooking Baba a meal and offering it to Him (in my heart of course). I should explain that this presence in the heart appears a reality and not fanciful imagery.

- S - You are mine. Nothing can ever harm you. Never forget that everything that happens in your life from now on will be for your benefit regardless of what it appears to be.
- A - I love You so Baba I wish I could be with You, merge with You this instant.
- S - Silly child if that were to happen who would I play with? Who would be my companion. From now on we will never be parted. I will always be with you.
- A - Thank You.

11th March Thursday

After typing this morning, I felt drowsy and so utilising the excuse that Baba had still not 'specifically' asked me to write the second book I went back to sleep. Baba, ever one to keep His word came to me in a dream again. I dreamt mother, my sister-in-law and I were seated before a mandir which had a moorthi of Shiva which later transformed to Baba's moorthi. The moorthi floated over to my sister and gave her a peck on the cheek. It then returned to its place. Seeing this I prayed for the same. Soon it came across to me and complied with my wish. I asked Baba to give the same to mother which it did. Having fulfilled His part He ensured that I paid forfeit for having broken mine since I had promised to start work on the book this morning. All day though Baba was present and visible to me He declined to answer or respond to me throughout the long day. You can imagine my feelings. What better way of making sure that in future I stood by my word and also of confirming that His voice within me is a reality and not a figment of my fancy.

“Be attached under all conditions to
the source, substance and sum total
of all the power: The Lord.....
Then you can draw from that source
all that you need.
This attachment is called bhakti.”

-Sri Sathya Sai Baba-

Chapter 3 Faith Tested

12th March Friday

I begged forgiveness for my lapse of honor and commenced work on the book.

- A - Gosh this is so difficult. I shall have to draft it during the day and type in the mornings.
- S - At last you understand, it will take time to complete.
- A - It's ok Baba we will finish it. Nothing to worry about. What's the hurry.
- S - You do not see the future so you cannot understand. There is not the time.
- A - Why?
- S - Soon you will be engaged then your attention will be on other things of more urgency.
- A - No Baba, Your work first. I will always make time for it. You know that I wish my life to be used for your work alone. (suddenly it struck me). Thank God You are speaking to me again.
- S - Silence is the only way to correct.
- A - Taking a leaf out of mother's book, are you?
- S - No. At times words become ineffective and the only solution is silence. It has now been ten days since I first intimated about the book but you very conveniently found excuse after excuse to delay starting it. Only My absence stirred you into action, is it not?
- A - Yes. I missed You very much yesterday.
- S - I know.
- A - Didn't You miss me?
- S - How could I? I was here with you all the time.
- A - What I mean is didn't you miss our conversation?
- S - What do you think?

Later I found my mind wandering on worldly events.

- S - Why don't you stay with Me?
- A - Baba it is You who should be voluntarily staying with me and talk to me. After all You have to make up for the punishment of yesterday.
- S - Why? If I do that it won't be a corrective measure anymore.
- A - Ah! But what do You do at Prasanthi with Your boys? You begin by severely reprimanding them and end up an hour later rewarding them by signing photographs, joking, playing and allowing padnamaskar, isn't it? So why not the same with me? I reckon You now owe me a reward.
- S - What would you like?
- A - If I tell You it won't be a surprise, will it?
- S - Alright.
- A - Will it be a dream?
- S - You will have to wait and see.

The rest of the morning and part of the afternoon I was thinking constantly about past events, none too pleasant, which had been brought to mind by expected future functions.

- A - Sorry Baba I should not think of such things.
 S - I wondered when you would remember Me.
 A - I'm trying but I just can't seem to get these thoughts out of my mind.
 S - Lose some weight by the 28th of the month.
 A - (I'm only 7lbs over my normal weight) What's at the end of the month?
 S - You will be meeting your prospective husband.
 A - I thought You said looks did not matter.
 S - It does not but it is worth preparing for.
 A - Baba what's my surprise?
 S - That's it. I have just told you the future. It is the news your mother has been waiting for.
 A - That's worldly Baba it does not count. I want something special.
 Baba, can I tell all the other Guru's about your rules for interviews?
 S - Yes you may.
 A - Great.

I was working on Book two and came to where Baba materialised a pendent for me.

- S - All the things I have given you in dreams I will also give you in reality.
 A - Thank You.

13th March Saturday

I am superstitious of this ominous number. I tried to convince myself not to be so dogged in my beliefs without success. There was to be a Sai satsang on the day. I was preoccupied with thoughts of events on the preceding day. In the afternoon I attended the function and in spite of all my friends and a bal vikas program I found myself alone much of the time. Deliberately arranged by Baba.

- S - There are no true friends. You should not depend on anyone, only on God. God is your only true ally, friend and confident. Even so, people desert Me and turn to others for comfort and they in turn leave them. Irony is it not?

That evening.

- A - I'm sorry Baba I suppose I too take You for granted simply because You are always here. I waste too much time involved in other things knowing that I can always speak to You later.
 S - That is the problem with all people. Everyone takes all that I provide for granted. Just for a moment think what life would be like without Me and all those things?
 A - I do love You please bless me with madhura bhakti and annaya chinta for You so that samsar loses its attraction for me. Baba it seems unique this, Your speaking to me.
 S - It is. Now do you understand after learning of that other person that not all are having the same grace. (I had learnt of girl who had similar grace but only sometimes).
 A - Yes, but why are there so many variations? Why don't You bless all with the same grace?
 S - What you receive depends on what you ask for and expect. You lay the rules for what can be bestowed on you. Some persons

cannot believe in the possibility of some things. Just as certain persons only have faith in drugs and tablets rather than faith in the divine. Therefore, how can I give them something they believe to be impossible. It is only your yearning, seeking and implicit conviction that God can be attained in so personal a manner that I can speak you.

A - I see! Baba I'm so tired. I'm going to sleep.

14th March Sunday

I resolved to spend the entire day in His company without success. Baba spoke occasionally but I was so busy with my mental musings that I paid little attention to Him. In the evening, I attempted to draft a few pages.

A - Baba I cannot do this at all.

S - Why did you tell your friend that YOU were writing the books yesterday? Who are YOU to write?

A - Baba I only told one person!

S - Yes and look at the size of your ego? That's why you can no longer think to write.

A - What shall I do then?

S - You must understand that you are not the doer so why the pride? Destroy the sense of 'I' and then I will work through you.

A - Baba don't take too long about it – time is short.

S - Why is it that you are the one to always forget that and lose yourself in what goes on around you. I have very considerably provided a congenial atmosphere and the time to immerse yourself in Me and you spurn that, for what? The trivial and transient!

A - I'm sorry Baba – but how can I help it? I've made the choice to be with You now and so it is up to You to help me to achieve it. I cannot 'do' on my own without Your will, can I? Does man have that freedom?

S - No – You are quite right – the only freewill you have is to decide between the world and Me. After that it is My grace that will help you to succeed.

A - Then why don't You help me? Why is my mind constantly thinking of other things.

S - I am helping you – My presence is that, but you must also make the effort to control the mind. Its nature is to flit from one thought to another. You must concentrate it on My form in your heart.

A - What then?

S - That is all that is necessary. Once you see Me there all other thoughts will vanish.

A - Ok. I will try it. Baba, I hope You did not mind my telling the children a few of our conversations without mentioning how they occur?

S - Not then but from now on do not speak of our talks to anyone.

A - Why?

S - Your ego will grow out of all proportion and then you will be distant from Me.

A - But I need someone to talk to.

S - Then let that someone be Me. What did you tell the girls to do today?

A - To confide only in You.

S - Why?

- A - Because one is never friends with the same person all one's life and because ultimately only You can help.
- S - Don't you think this applies to you also?
- A - I think so!
- S - Well then! To be a good guru you yourself must follow every principle you teach. It is only then that you will be incapable of making an error or leading others astray.
- A - How true that is Baba.
- S - Do you know why?
- A - No.
- S - Because when you see the behavior of others it is easy to judge right from wrong and this you do all the time when you come into contact with the children and their parents. How many times I have heard you comment on the shortcomings of the parents. Due to this you automatically end up following the correct path as others are like a mirror held up before you. And that in turn ensures that the children copy your example. That is why bal vikas is the best training ground for both guru and child. The process works for both the parties.
- A - What about the writing?
- S - We will do it in the morning.
- A - But we will fall behind.
- S - Not to worry it won't.
- A - Do You know Baba; I have just realized that this preparing of my own food is really working. Today it is ten days, and I have not been annoyed or out sorts. It is a trial to do but at least it works.
- S - I know.

15th March Monday

This morning it was so simple drafting and typing, Baba's grace I believe.

- A - I wish You would speak to me and be as close as before. These last few days we seem to have grown a little apart.
- S - I will if only you would make the effort to stay in My company.
- A - Alright what shall we talk about?
- S - What would you like to know?
- A - Samadhi. Will you please give me the experience of samadhi.
- S - You silly child what you have now is far better than samadhi even. In samadhi your mind is pure, at peace and immersed in divine bliss. You already have that in your possession. How do you feel when you talk to Me and are with Me in the heart?
- A - Very, very happy.
- S - Well that peace and joy is the beginning of samadhi. When you lose all consciousness of the world it will be samadhi fully. It is far more delightful to talk to God than to be in samadhi even.
- A - Baba do You remember those beautiful visions and bliss I experienced after the first interview, was that it?
- S - Yes.
- A - Then I would like to feel the same again. Please bless me with it.
- S - Alright.

Later in the evening as I had been busy during the day with the typing, housework, corrections, and an afternoon nap.

- A - How are You Baba? What have you been doing all day.
 S - Nothing and I am bored.
 A - Why?
 S - There IS nothing to do. I have been waiting here for you.
 A - Why don't You occupy Yourself by reading or something?
 S - How can I? I am God and I already know everything. The only diversion for Me is being with you. It is a change and novelty otherwise it is quite tedious being in possession of all knowledge of the past, present and future. Mankind has so many options, so much to interest and amuse himself with that he forgets Me. To whom can I turn?
 A - I am sorry Baba.
 S - Not to worry I am used to this loneliness.
 A - Poor Baba. I wish I did not have to do anything else so that I could be with You all the time. I wish it was possible to take away Your loneliness.
 S - Thank you not many people care enough for Me to even think like that. Normally they think that because I have created everything and have all powers, I want for nothing little realizing that I can do nothing for Myself. I am totally dependent on those who love Me. Even now You sometimes forget to ask Me My preferences.
 A - Oh poor, poor Baba. I won't again.

16th March Tuesday

This afternoon we were watching Gopal Krishna, the film, and it was at the point where Radha refuses to allow Krishna to go to Mathura.

- S - That is the kind of love I have been seeking through the ages. A love that cannot live without Me. A love that eats, sleeps and breathes only God. Radha was one such.
 A - Then why do You call me Radhika? I am not worthy of such a high honor. She was unique and I can never be one such.
 S - You were in 1987 when you came to Me then. You were so completely detached that nothing affected you not even the illness and the possibility of the death of your mother. Your love for Me at that time was so strong that you were beyond the senses. You will be so again.
 A - Baba grant that grace quickly for I long to be so.
 S - I am trying to instill that peace into you, but you are avoiding My attempts. That is what was meant by the jyoti eluding Me in that dream 11 days ago. You are resisting My attempts in your desire to retain your individuality. The jyoti represented your ego personality.
 A - Baba what is madhura bhakti?
 S - It is the love that Radha had for Krishna. Every waking and sleeping moment is lost in the contemplation of the divine. For Radha there was no other she saw only Me everywhere.
 A - But it was easy for the people of that era to practice this. You were there at the time. You played, lived and moved with them. You also gave them so many evidences of Your divine nature. Even more You lavished an ocean of love upon them. Naturally they could concentrate on You and remain immersed in thoughts of You alone throughout the day.

- S - It depends on how you view the matter for even in those days there were people who regardless of what they witnessed, or the extent of grace conferred upon them they still failed to believe in Me. There are people who will always find it impossible to put faith in a living God. They are the ones who are only interested in the fulfillment of their material desires. But for those who love Me and want My love I am born in every age. It is possible even now. You have Me now. The same love is being showered now also.
- A - But Baba I have never been allowed close to You. At Prasanthi You are so distant. I yearn for the times that have gone when You grew up and used to be near to devotees. If only I could have been around, then.
- S - Now it will be yours. I will come. That distance at Prasanthi must be maintained for the sake of discipline.

Later...

- A - I do hope I get all these conversations right.
- S - They are. Whilst you are doing my work without ego, how can it be wrong?
- A - Baba please make the thought waves into a voice quickly so that I can be absolutely sure.
- S - How many times must I tell you?
- A - Alright then. Baba this places You under an obligation to make every word true, isn't it?
- S - Of course. In time.

Baba plays innumerable games so enticingly sweet. It is not possible to write about all of them. For instance, should I forget to ask Him to eat He will accuse me and then refuse when I do offer Him something. If I do ask, He will ask for the most ridiculous items and the most absurd combinations. My family now amuse themselves at my apparent lack of taste. If I forget something He will immediately lodge a complaint. He refuses to eat if there is too much salt, pepper or spice and will then insist that He is still hungry. However, when I do cook especially for Him the meal turns out so incredibly delicious that all comment on it. All that He can do to hold my attention He will throughout the day and I love having Him with me so. At times the expressions of His love are so overwhelming that tears spring to the eyes of their own violation. Then the family wonder at what could possibly have saddened me so, unaware that they are the result of divine ananda.

- A - Baba the other guru's wish to be clear about who is going to India and I have not even asked my parents yet.
- S - What do you think?
- A - All I know is that I have to be with You. How I do not know.
- S - You will be for I also want to see you.
- A - Really! Then why didn't You pay any attention to me when I came now?
- S - It was not the time.
- A - Why?
- S - Because you were only there for five days, and your mother was with you, and it is not yet her time for an interview. Also, I was busy with the doctor's conference. There was so much to do.
- A - Baba You are only making excuses. You could have had You wished to.

- S - No! There are times when it is impractical, believe Me. Think of the extent of My responsibility Radhika. The thousands who come all to be listened to and answered. The millions in their own places who call on Me each day. Why don't you accept what I say?
- A - Ok,ok, You win. What shall we do this afternoon?
- S - Why don't you come inside to Me?
- A - What if I am called by my mother?
- S - Your sister-in-law will answer.
- A - Alright, will do in a while.

Later I was massaging His feet after having spent an hour in His company and had afternoon tea with Him.

- A - Baba You know that chap said that I would live to be 76 years of age. Well by then You will have left this body. I do not want to live without You Baba. I could not bear the thought of Your going (tears start automatically as soon as this thought comes to mind). Baba please change my future so that I can go before You.
- S - Do you have any understanding of what it would mean? My having to alter the lives of all those who would have come into contact with you in those 14 years! Also speeding up your karmic debts so that all your karma is finished by then. Then you will not be able to witness the marriages of your children either.
- A - I do not care. You are the father and mother of all, and You will take care of their futures far better than I could. As for the rest, if You can, then please do change everything. Besides if two years of karma can be condensed into two months then surely 14 years can be quashed into 14 months?
- S - Of course it can. Anything can be done but just think of your children left behind motherless and your husband who loves you widowed?
- A - Baba each one has their own life to lead. No one is born for the sake of anyone else. No one dies for another. And what of my suffering during those 14 years when I will weep each day at the thought of Your having left? Is that of no consequence?
- S - If no one dies for another then why do you propose to die with Me?
- A - Because I love You and cannot live without You.
- S - But I will not be going anywhere. I am present everywhere always. I shall be with you shakshatkar – closer than now even.
- A - Even so Baba. Life does not hold any fascination for me at all. Should You ask me to leave everything and come to You when I have a month-old child – I would come.
- S - You are only saying that. At the time you will be different.
- A - Try me.
- S - Perhaps I will.
- A - If You do then remember that I will then demand the right to die and be with You and You will be under an obligation to grant it.
- S - Will I?
- A - Yes Baba, and You must promise now to keep Your word.
- S - We will see!

17th March Wednesday

This morning before I commenced typing Baba decided to make His presence known by making a musical doll play by itself, something which it has never done before.

A - Baba why did You play the music this morning?

S - For you. To let you know I was there. For fun.

As I was going out today, I thought I had better have lunch before leaving home as I did not really wish to eat outside.

S - Why?

A - Because I should not eat out due to the bad thoughts.

S - I'll provide something special.

A - Oh yes!

S - Shall we go out for a meal – just the two of us?

A - I'll invite my friends, You won't mind, will You?

S - Why the friends? Am I not enough?

A - You are Baba, but it would be nice to talk to someone.

S - Is this your devotion?

Anyway, I rang a friend who said she would ring back with an answer.

A - Thanks, now probably no one will come.

S - So we will be alone and can talk together?

A - A proper fool I shall look seated in a secluded alcove talking to myself!

Baba smiled. Soon my friends rang to say they would come. In the bus I saw a lady dressed in a beautifully patterned dress.

A - Isn't it beautiful, the colours so gay?

S - Everything I have created is beautiful. Only mankind fails to see and appreciate My work. There is nothing that is ugly or ungraceful. If you could but see with My vision.

A - Baba let me see with Your vision for a day.

S - I will – one day. Then you will understand how and why I feel for the worst of persons.

A - Baba on that day may I also know the past and future of all those I meet?

S - It will be too much for you to comprehend or even accept.

A - Please Baba.

S - Alright but wait awhile until you are ready spiritually. Such knowledge can make one insane.

A - It won't. You'll be there with me.

S - I know, I know.

A - Baba I love You so much. Just because I have not said it does not mean that the love is not there.

S - I know that also and I love you too.

A - Are You sure about this eating out?

S - Yes. It is my surprise for you. That something special you asked for. I shall be present, and every word said will be my love for you.

A - Baba truly! I thought You had forgotten.

S - No, how could I? I wait only for the right time.

It was a beautiful lunch, and everything tasted divine. The conversation centered around Baba only.

S - Baba what a disappointment I did not learn anything new.

A - You cannot do that from any person other than Myself.

In the evening, I was in bed when Baba blessed me with a beautiful vision of Lord Vishnu.

18th March Thursday

This morning, I had a wonderful dream. I was in a place (unrecognizable) and a man (Baba) came to me there. He offered me a choice, to remain with my family at home or to go with Him. Before I made the choice, He was with me for a time, and we became quite close, very intimate. I decided to go with Him. As we walked along, we came to a field full of potholes, whirlpools that dragged one down, quicksand and sandpits, in fact all manner of obstacles. We had to cross over this course by negotiating the death traps. There were many other people attempting the same. As we reached the other side safely, I remarked that the danger spots ought to be sign posted. Baba replied that it was not feasible as the traps moved position regularly. We then came to another road, Baba left me to go down a side street, and I continued but within moments He returned to me, and we walked hand in hand ahead. In the morning, I cheated and had a nap. Again, I know that He was there, and it was beautiful. Baba told me many things which I started writing down in my dream and yet when I awoke, I remembered nothing.

A - Baba make me remember what happened in the dream.

S - Why?

A - I'd like to know.

S - Do you still need that? Am I not enough?

A - Oh Baba.

He never told me perhaps because I slept when I should not have! I feel blissful just being in His presence today. At 5.30pm we were watching Shirdi Ke Sai Baba as we had guests.

A - Baba did all those incidents really happen during Your past lifetime?

S - Does it matter what's true? The essence of the events is indisputably real.

A - Baba what does the dream this morning mean?

S - It shows your relationship with Me and your life since you have come to know Me. The first part related to the choice you had to make between the world, represented by family attachments, and Me. You correctly chose Me. The field signified the tests and trials you have been through these last four, five years. I was always by your side guiding and guarding you otherwise you could never have avoided being harmed by the danger zones.

A - Baba I could not see what the road ahead held for me.

S - The road ahead holds only good for you. Do you remember that dream a few years ago, a path with flowers on either side? That time has come for you. You need not worry about anything.

A - Would all this have taken place had You not had a hand in shaping my future?

S - No, it would have been very different.

A - How can I repay what I owe You?

S - Does love seek repayment?

A - No, but there must be something I can do.

S - Give Me your love and time.

A - You already have my love – take my time Yourself.

S - That would not be the same – you give it to Me yourself.

A - How can I? My mind is not my own. It does not obey me, so You take it.

S - You argue far too much Radhika.

A - Really Baba!

Later.

A - Are You enjoying the film?

S - Things are portrayed differently to how they actually were.

A - Do you like watching Yourself?

S - To Me it makes no difference – for all forms are Mine. Every single body is Me. I see only Myself everywhere. Even in you I see only Myself.

A - Baba it is impossible to have a normal conversation with You as You always end up turning it into a lesson on philosophy.

S - Therein lies the difference in how you and I view life and the world.

A - Just for a day be human and act normal for me.

S - Are you sure?

A - Yes. Why?

S - If I do, I will have all the faults and failings of mankind. It will not please you.

A - Why?

S - Wait and see.

A - Baba You must warn me on the day though. Baba, I have just noticed that anyone who reprimands me even for an error I have unwittingly committed they receive something similar in kind.

S - Radhika living with Me your heart is becoming pure without any of the negative qualities like anger, revenge or malice. And you already know that every action has an automatic reaction. Therefore due to the purity within you all that is levelled at you is instantly returned to the sender. This is what happens when the innate divinity manifests itself in a person's heart.

A - But Baba I am not good at all. I have so many faults.

S - Not for Me you haven't.

A - That's Your love Baba and besides your view is jaundiced because You love me.

S - My view is never biased. I see only the truth.

A - Are You not even slightly swayed by the love of devotees?

S - Sometimes when the love is without reason and unconditional.
(Smiles)

A - There, caught you!

Later

A - Baba I have heard it said that God loves the bhakti and not the bhakta, is that true?

S - You cannot have bhakti without the bhakta just as there cannot be sweetness without the sugar they are inseparably bound. The form is needed to express the love.

19th March Friday

This morning, I was reflecting on yesterday's conversation regarding action and reaction etc.

- S - What is more, the more you live with Me, not only can nobody harm you, but your tongue becomes the abode of truth. Every word you say must be.
- A - Truly, how?
- S - If you are pure in thought, word and deed then it is automatic that the spoken word shall be. Saraswati then resides on the tongue.
- A - But only saints have that power.
- S - It is not a power it is the result of purity of heart.
- A - I must then be careful for I would not wish to harm anyone.
- S - You cannot. Not now that I am with you guiding your every move. Can you think evil of those now laughing at your expense because you are not married?
- A - I was surprised at myself but no, I could not.
- S - See!

20th March Saturday

This morning, I had a nap for the arrangement Baba has accepted is early morning early night and late morning late night. I had two dreams, one of my books having been published with photos of Baba. The other one was about the bal vikas children at Prasanthi and we were doing practices. I was telling the children how lucky they were, and that this opportunity would never come their way again. I also stopped some of the children from wandering outside the ashram. I believe I was told that there were 25 in the group. I do not know if this included the guru's or not. In addition to this I dreamt about my sister-in-law.

- A - Shall I tell mother the dream about her?
- S - No Radhika keep it to yourself.
- A - Hello Baba, You there?
- S - Yes, I was waiting for you to get up.
- A - What happened yesterday?
- S - Well I had decided to be with you but then I was called away urgently.
- A - You do not need to leave me to attend to others and besides it could not have taken all day.
- S - I saw something that caught My fanc and
- A - Caught Your fancy?
- S - I told you, you would not like My being human.
- A - But You did not even warn me.
- S - Like your mind Mine would not remain steady and there were a million and one things to do and places to visit.
- A - Baba You are trying to con me.
- S - No, seriously if I am human, I would naturally exhibit the human qualities, would I not?
- A - Of course! You are an expert trickster, and I'll make sure I never fall into that trap again. I meant You should come in human form shakshatkar and BE human.
- S - Perhaps I misunderstood.
- A - Nothing of the sort. Well, how do You propose we spend the day?

- S - Come to bhajans.
 A - Thanks for the invite but maybe I'll have something else to do.
 S - Angry?
 A - No. I only missed You all day and wondered what could have happened. Nothing important. Not that You would care if there was.
 S - Radhika, Radhika when are you going to learn?
 A - Apparently never.
 S - Promise I'll stay all day.
 A - Suit Yourself.

We talked all day about nothing in particular. In the evening, I went to bhajans and naturally Baba started to talk, and I had no paper to write on.

- S - You still doubt My presence.
 A - Yes. Baba does mother's guru have the same ability to talk to You like this.
 S - No. As I explained before it depends on your chosen path to God as to what you receive.
 A - Looking back on my dreams it appears that You Yourself led me on this path of madhura bhakti otherwise it would never have occurred to me to love You so.
 S - Yes, I did, for it is the only way for you to attain Me. For many births you have chosen this path and been guided along on it. Had anyone attempted to lead you on any other road to Me you would have rejected it for it would have failed to satisfy you. If you remember I entered your life when you had resolutely decided to accept a mantra from your mothers' guru.
 A - Had I gone ahead with my intention what would have happened?
 S - Nothing. You would not have succeeded in your bhakti because your mother's guru could not have answered your queries to your satisfaction. I would still have had to call you and set you on the correct path but then it would have become difficult and perhaps it would not have been possible for you to accept having two guru's. The conflict may have led you astray and you could have had to wait till your next birth before you met Me. Tell Me, do you have faith in your mother's guru?
 A - I believe that he is a realized soul but no I have no faith in him. Baba can lives be changed so much with just one incident.
 S - Yes indeed. People fail to understand the importance of every single act they do. Each one is vital in forming the future. A minor error can and does cause a major harm. That is why it is so important for Me to be aware and be there for every single devotee at the right time. Timing is of the essence.
 A - Madhura bhakti is the way of love. What are the other paths to you?
 S - They are far too numerous to list. There are as many variations of paths as there are people. But basically, the three paths are Karma, Bhakti and Jnana. In each one there are many different modes. As in bhakti, it can be of many kinds, can it not? However, what is usually found is that all the paths are intermixed to some degree. For instance, one set on the road of karma may also have a sprinkling of bhakti and an ounce of jnana or a jnani may possess bhakti but no karma. Of the nine paths to God sharvanam,

kirthanam, dyasam and Madhura etc. you will find that one path predominates though there is a mix. It is only in madhura bhakti that there is no mixture to found. It consists of love alone, nothing but love, love, love and more love. It is the total sum of every type of love in the universe. The attraction of atom for atom, man for woman, mother for child, brother for brother etc. There is no end to the depth to this love, it is endless of infinity itself like Me. That is why love is My form.

- A - Baba did Radha match the depths of Your love?
S - No. She was supreme. The other half of Myself even but no.
A - Why?
S - Because one would have to be wholly divine – to be God to do so.
A - Can one aim for it?
S - Yes but it is virtually impossible to attain.
A - Even by liberation?
S - Liberation is freedom from births, merging with Me to become one with Me, that is not matching My love, is it?
A - No it is not the same. Now I understand why You have asked me to write both books simultaneously. It is so that I may relearn all that You taught me then. Also, I am now in a position to analyse in retrospect a) how important those dreams were. B) how You guided me on this path of love.
S - And it was to write these books that I gave you so many, many dreams and grace.
A - I always did wonder why Baba, for as far as I could tell not everyone seemed to be blessed with the profusion of dreams as I was.
S - Not only was, still are! Knowledge of these days and also you yourself made Me come by constantly calling on Me. There is much more to come.
A - What sort of things?
S - Shakshatkar darshans and teachings as per your previously expressed desires.
A - When Baba?
S - Soon.
A - That's what You said about my third eye opening, and it has been six years now!
S - Soon by My reckoning. If I divulge the exact time then the purpose will be defeated, it may not take place, for you in the certainty of the event may not do the sadhana necessary for the consummation of the desire.
A - I see. What must I do?
S - Much, much more. Live with Me twenty-four hours a day in the heart first.
A - What about my worldly duties?
S - They are not so demanding. You can manage this. I would not ask the impossible. You must bring your mind under control.
A - And if I make the attempt even?
S - You will have the experience.

21st March Sunday

This morning, I re queried Baba's replies of yesterday regarding bhakti.

- A - Baba how could Radha's love fall short of Yours?

- S - Radhika only an ocean can compare with an ocean, isn't it?
Infinity has no end, that is the literal meaning of the word, is it not?
Therefore, love has no end. How can the limited contained in a
limited form compare or compete with infinite love?
- A - I thought that perhaps I had got it wrong, so I wanted to reconfirm
it. (Baba Smiled)

Later on, I became entangled in family affairs. Normally I make sure that I remain an observer only but today I also commented and my views were not what Baba expects from me. Within five minutes I was made aware of my error as I slipped and almost fell down 4 -5 steps.

- A - Baba my reprimand for taking part?
- S - Listen if you must but let it pass over you like so much water on a stone. Do not let it enter your mind or respond to it.
- A - I try not to Baba but sometimes an opinion forms by itself.
- S - Have no thoughts of or interest in the affairs of others. You have Me and that should be enough for you.
- A - I'll try.
- S - Not try 'do'. Remember that taking part you soil your heart where I now reside.
- A - Ok. Baba. Are You coming to bal vikas today?
- S - Yes.
- Later...
- S - I shower all this grace on you and look at your behavior?
- A - Sorry Baba.
- S - So you should be.
- A - But Baba even You say that the habits and attitudes acquired over many hundreds of lifetimes take time to change and purify.
- S - In normal circumstances yes but why do you think I am here now?
It is to accelerate the process so that you become fit for merging sooner.
- A - Thank you Baba. I don't think I will attend the wedding as it will only damage the progress already made. Besides it will mean all night travelling and I will not be able to do proper worship etc for two days.
- S - Let the others decide. Have no choice yourself. Be clear as a mirror and merely reflect.
- A - That's neatly put. I'll do that.

Later during bal vikas prayers myself and another Guru were outside discussing His love.

- S - You talk too much.
- A - Thanks.

Afterwards I asked Baba for a flower, but no one gave me one.

- A - Why didn't You give me a flower? I'm not worthy of one. Have I made a mistake?
- S - No. You have Me in Your heart and can see Me there so why do you need a flower?
- A - They all have You too.
- S - Not like you do. They do not even realise that it is possible.
- A - Spoil sport!

“Real meditation is being absorbed
in the thought of God all the time.

God only, only God.

Think God, breathe God, see God,
hear God, live God, Love God.”

-Sri Sathya Sai Baba-

Chapter 4 Sadhana

22 March Monday

It is a continuous source of amazement that all that Baba teaches me is usually invaluable in my role of guru. The lesson on non-involvement was particularly useful in dispelling the doubts and queries of some of the children yesterday. A few of the children had become stranded on their step on the sadhana chart and needed guidance on how to advance and what their failings may be. It was uncanny how Baba, through me, responded correctly to all their questions. The thoughts arose of their own accord and struck a cord in the hearts of the children. This is God speaking with God. The inner mystical conversation between atma and paramatma. Only when we allow God to manifest within us and use us as His instrument can this happen.

- A - Baba why is it that on the 5th of May 1986 You appeared to me and not to the lady who had the first dream?
- S - Because to her it was just that, a dream. She did not eagerly await My coming as you did. Your yearning forced Me to come, she forgot.
- A - Why is it that You did not clearly warn me about my marriage etc?
- S - I did but you did not pay attention to my attempts. By the time you realised it, it was too late and beyond you to put a stop to it. The karma was too strong for your parents to overcome.
- A - Not even with unconditional love?
- S - Yes, but your parents were not of that type. Besides your marriage served two purposes one was to use up your accumulated karma and secondly to test the strength of your devotion.
- A - You don't leave me much to say, do You? Did I pass?
- S - Yes.
- A - I thought I had failed for I came very close to leaving You?
- S - But you did not leave Me.
- A - Baba that was the point on my hand that You referred to on the 5th of May 1986, was it not?
- S - Yes. You came to the crossroads, and had you chosen to leave Me then your life would have been very much different and liberation that much more distant.
- A - What saved me?
- S - The grace I had bestowed upon you, the dreams, the evidence of My presence but mainly your love for Me.

I decided to have a nap at 1.15pm and naturally that was exactly when Baba wished to have a chat. I saw Him doing housework and so asked out of curiosity.

- A - Baba what ARE You doing?
- S - Tidying up!
- A - What do You mean 'Tidying up'?
- S - Well you do not seem to want to do anything. You come, visit and leave without so much as an offer of help.
- A - Baba stop teasing. You do not need any cleaning.
- S - Do you think the place stays clean by itself?
- A - I suppose next that You would not mind in the least if I offered to wash up!

- S - No that's ok - I rarely cook because I eat and drink what you do.
- A - You surprise me. What about the laundry?
- S - You know, I've been thinking of that. At the moment I change at Prasanthi, but I suppose I really ought to keep a set of clothes here also.
- A - And I will be expected to wash and iron?
- S - You don't mind - thanks.
- A - Baba you amaze me. How often am I required to be Your char lady and dhobi?
- S - Oh only for a short while every day.
- A - You're serious about this?
- S - Of course. If we live together then we have to share everything, isn't it?
- A - That is all very well but why You must need have a separate apartment is beyond me.
- S - God always lives in the heart.
- A - Oh yes!
- S - Don't you know that I am doing this for your benefit? It is sadhana for you.
- A - Charming. Makes me a servant and calls it sadhana. I suppose you want me to do some today.
- S - No. It's alright I have finished for today.
- A - How much will You pay me?
- S - A pound of love?
- A - How do You propose to measure a pound of love?
- S - With the cup amrith.
- A - Baba You are talking nonsense are You sure You are alright? You have not had a touch of sun stroke, have You?
- S - No. why?
- A - Absolutely nothing!!

Later my sister-in-law and I were discussing childbirth and the agony one has to go through. I informed Baba that should I have such painful deliveries I'd cut His hair off.

- S - Would you really carry out your threat?
- A - No, of course not. I was only joking.
- S - What a relief.
- A - Are You sure You don't need Your head examined. Baba is there any difference between the darshans and interviews that You grant to those who have earned it in a previous life and those who love You utterly. For I have noticed that some persons receive so much for so many years, even up to 25 years, then all of a sudden, they fall away.
- S - In My love for them, No. In My attitude towards them, no. I treat all equally. But you can see for yourself that those who receive My grace due to past merit and do not make any effort in this life, get just that - what they are owed. On the other hand, those who give themselves to Me, wholly without reserve - even though their karma may not advocate such grace they receive all that I can give but more importantly they win My intimacy, My personal love. Only with them will I play, be friend, companion and nearest and dearest. The others gain only the contact with this form which is their due. I must add that they are offered the opportunity but rarely avail themselves of it not realising the value due to their preoccupation with worldly affairs.

Later my sister-in-law and I were discussing how sometimes events take place without one realising them. Such things as marriages within a month to a virtual stranger.

S - How do you know I might do the same to you?

A - Would You really?

S - I might.

A - Well, I may well refuse.

S - You cannot. You have given your life into My hands.

A - I would accept actually because You would only do what is good for me.

S - What faith? Shall I test it?

A - That's entirely up to You.

23rd March Tuesday

Baba had not got up for prayers this morning. At 9am He complained.

A - Baba aren't You up yet?

S - I'm waiting.

A - For what?

S - Tea.

A - But we have just had coffee.

S - You have just had coffee.

A - I offered You some.

S - I did not want coffee. How many times must I tell you?

A - Well I do not want any tea now so shall I make some for You in Your kitchen?

S - Yes after you have tidied up.

A - You want me to do that now.

S - When else? I suggest you clean up every day after typing.

A - Any more orders sir?

S - And don't be cheeky.

A - I'll be with You in a minute.

Baba then ordered me not to fast today and so we had tea and toast. These last two days I have been racked with doubts regarding the lady's dream of 1986 and Baba's replies. I could not help but telephone her to discover if anything had happened. I was thunderstruck when she confirmed what Baba had already said that for her nothing unusual had taken place on that day. I am continually astonished at my disbelief even though at the same time I doubt the validity of my own heart and mind when Baba requests such improbabilities as tidying up His rooms and washing his clothes. If things relating to other people are true then it stands to reason that the rest must be so also.

24th March Wednesday

I was late rising, but Baba was even later, staying in bed. When I went to tidy at 8.30 am.

A - Baba why didn't You wake up this morning? Tired?

- S - I was up at 4am unlike a certain person I could name. I waited for you and then went back to sleep seeing that you could not be bothered to get up.
- A - Sorry love. I'll tidy up now.
- S - Wait a while, Radhika. Why don't you spend all your time with Me?
- A - Baba I do try, and I want to also but I never manage to. Perhaps subconsciously I'm fettered to the material world.
- S - You know that I am forever waiting for you.
- A - Baba can we talk later. I have so much to do. The house needs cleaning, and I must dress my niece. So just let me clean up here and then I'll make Your breakfast finish my work outside and then come back to You.
- S - No, leave everything and stay with Me now. Forget the breakfast, I'd much rather have you with Me than any other food. Besides you will forget to come back.
- A - I'm truly sorry Baba but it really is beyond my control. I cannot understand why If I want to stay with You and You want it also why it does not happen. The only solution I can think of is that You Yourself must bless me with such bhakti that I forget all else. I have read somewhere that bhakti is a gift from God and cannot be attained by effort of sadhana or austerity.
- S - That is true.
- A - Then I beg of You please bless me with such bhakti. (Baba smiled) Now just let me wash Your clothes and finish yesterday's ironing and I promise to return. (As I was doing this).
- S - You know that I wait all night for you to wake up in the morning so that we can talk but then you always find something else to occupy yourself.
- A - I didn't know You felt so much for me.
- S - If you love Me so then how can I help but be the same? You know that yesterday you forgot to write about what I said to you.
- A - When?
- S - When you were upset at watching your wedding video.

Yesterday my mother was showing my video to a guest with myself and my father present. When it came to the ceremony, we all found ourselves in tears. I switched off the video and left the room. Baba immediately called me within and comforted me, hugged me.

- S - Radhika do not cry. I am here. I'll give you so much, much more than that. So much that you will never think of the past again.

This is what I had classed as unimportant. It is reflecting Gods love for us. Even though we must suffer the consequences of our karma, and He is obliged to test the strength of our devotion- it is a painful process for Him also and He longs to make amends for the agony we go through. This is something we either never think of or tend to forget dwelling only on our own misery questioning 'why me'. Meanwhile we let His love slip away.

Later whilst washing up I thought I would sing to Him.

- S - Not that one sing the one you sang before.
- A - You mean my favorite.

S - It's mine too. It was the song that melted My heart and forced Me to come to you like this.

It is an English pop song called 'Annie's Song' and I sang it to Baba for two hours during and after evening darshan on the 1st February. I had no inkling that it was responsible for all this.

S - Not the song, it was the love carried by the words of the song, your love.

A - Don't I get any privacy at all?

S - If that's what you wanted why have you been calling Me to come to you all these years?

A - I was only joking. How can there be secrets between us?

25th March Thursday

After typing in the morning.

S - Why don't you go and have a rest now.

A - What about all the other work and I am going out today?

S - It will get done in time. I'll come.

A - Okay.

However, the human mind is such that it has very little faith or belief in even God's word and so I could not sleep thinking of all the things to be done. I had no wish to oversleep. Finally, at 8am I got up.

A - Baba I'm getting up. You didn't come?

S - Did you sleep?

A - I could not.

S - Never mind I was with you anyway. (Mentally I was within with Baba during the rest).

Whilst walking home this afternoon I was reflecting on the self-improvement project and smiled to myself at the fact that Baba enjoys it as much as the children. For every time I have initiated the project Baba invariably appears to the children in dreams to encourage and show them their position on the chart. This has been going on for the last eight years.

S - That is why you receive so much of My grace in various forms.

A - What Baba?

S - You guide the children on the path of love to Me. You try to teach them only love of God and instill all the principles and values into that rather than teach the syllabus on its own.

A - That's because I believe that loving God is the only way to easily assimilate the other teachings. Also, You enjoy the game and so do I. Besides I want the children to know what it is to love God and to receive His love.

S - Remember this throughout your life and always adhere to this path. Guide others along it as well and My grace will be showered upon you in abundance.

A - What about the catastrophes that are supposed to be happening shortly? Are they real?

S - Yes Radhika. But you need not bother yourself and neither need any Sai devotee for all those who have firm faith will be protected and saved. Nothing can ever harm you.

Then my thoughts turned to the Sai Mandir in Rishikesh and the eye that is supposed to appear on the picture there. I had taken photos, but they had not turned out. Yet a light appeared on a Shirdi photo I took at Srirangapatnam.

S - Do you understand why I did not let the photos of the Rishikesh mandir turn out?

A - No, why?

S - Because you would show it to all and sundry and acquire an oversized ego. These things are not meant to be so displayed like vegetables in a market. They are meant for that person only to whom they are given. That is why I insist on your maintaining silence and why the books are to be published anonymously. Do you know what would be the result if it were not so?

A - No.

S - You may well become entangled in material pursuits, and I would lose you. You would be helpless to control your life and mind and would have to start again in another birth. To you it may not matter...

A - It would. For I do not want that.

S - But to Me - I could not bear to wait for you for years and years. Think of what My time would be like waiting for your love.

A - Baba me also. I do not want to lose Your love either. I would much rather do without the fame. I want only You.

S - (Smiles) So remember to be silent.

A - Can I not even tell my other friend?

S - No.

A - I had not realised the depths of Your love for me.

S - No one understands, nor can they ever comprehend - when I give My love it is total without reserve and for My devotees who win Me so I would give up the entirety of creation itself.

A - No human would ever do that.

S - Some would. Very rare - not many.

A - Baba if I had the universe, all the wealth I would for You.

26th March Friday

This morning Baba reminded me about waking Him up by granting a vision of Himself just as I awoke. You see I usually forget. I upset someone by what I said, not intentionally though, but Baba forgave me and told me to forget the past. As I was engaged on corrections in the book most of the day, I did not have time to talk to Baba properly. At 6pm a friend rang with an enquiry for me from a prospective.

I was stunned and could not believe my ears. March was almost over, and I had begun to wonder how and when it would happen. Apparently, he is a widower with two young children.

S - I told you Radhika.

A - But Baba he has two children already. What will people say?
Could I not find someone better.

S - Do you want to look at what others say or your life with Me?

- A - You know which one.
- S - Then marry this man
- A - Baba he has to like me too You know.
- S - (Smiles) He will.
- A - Do I have to marry him?
- S - No. I can find somebody else if you wish but think of what it may mean. A man with no children at all will make demands and it would mean that we will be apart for four to five years while you fulfil your marital duties. Kama and love cannot reside together.
- A - And if I marry him?
- S - Then I will take care of everything, and we will not be parted. It is your choice.
- A - I'll marry him if he turns out to be a Sai devotee. (I said this because I thought he could not possibly be so). I still cannot believe this is happening.
- S - You still have no faith in what I tell you.
- A - I do but it seems so strange.
- S - Marry the right man no matter what it seems then I will fulfil everything even the coming to dine at your house as I promised in 1986.
- A - Will You really?
- S - Of course Radhika. You see it is My wish that you marry him for I do not want to lose your love. It is rare for Me to find a love such as yours. Very few persons are so as I told you in 1987.
- A - I cannot credit that You are saying this to me.
- S - I don't think you do.
- A - My dearest beloved Baba if it is Your wish then I will but please I still want to come in August.
- S - You will I promise.
- Later after the above conversation had sunk in.
- A - From all this then what You said to me in 1987 - You meant every word?
- S - Of course I did.
- A - You really and truly do love me, and I am Yours at last. After all these years of longing and yearning for Your love You are here. (tears gathered and fell as I recalled all the torment of waiting not believing that it would, could be possible in this life). In that case I give my life over to You entirely. I will have no choices - except the one to be with You and have You with me. (Baba is smiling) Are You quite sure this is the man for me?
- S - Radhika, I'll never let you suffer again. Is that not promise enough?
- A - Baba, my dearest, dearest Baba - I love You so. I will leave it all to You You do as You think best. All I desire is that no one should ever come between us or stop me from loving You.
- S - My wish also.

27th March Saturday

Since Wednesday I had been suffering from severe back pains and as I refrain from using painkillers or any other medication I was in intense pain. Nevertheless, my mother advocated an old Indian recipe of ground ginger mixed with raw sugar and butter to no effect. This morning at approximately 11am the pains became unbearable, and it was near impossible to continue with my household chores.

- A - I wonder what is causing them? How can I go through life like this?
Baba it hurts so much, My word. (Immediately He responded).
S - Here lie down (in the heart) and I'll massage your pain away.
A - Thanks. I don't like to ask You.
S - I know. Here let Me.

I lay down on the sofa and Baba laid His healing hands on my back. It was about an hour later after I had had lunch, I became aware that the pain had vanished. His love leaves me thunderstruck. I had been suffering these last four days.

- A - Baba it's You.
S - I know.
A - Why didn't You do it before?
S - You did not ask Me.
A - I had no wish to trouble You.
S - Radhika for Me it is no trouble. I am here for this very purpose. It is my duty.
A - I understand my dearest, but everyone uses You like that. I seek Your love not duty and I dislike having to call on You for then You may think that I am like all the rest and only love You for what You can do for me.
S - I would not think that of you - I know how you feel.
A - Even so Baba it is so easy for us humans to change and become selfish and under the guise of love use You and then forget. I always try to remember what You said once about everyone wanting the gifts but not the giver. How terribly lonely it must be for You. So, I want the giver and not the gifts.
S - Radhika, Radhika
A - And I love You too.

I was discussing with my sister how on our recent trip to India we had not only managed to visit Baba but many other places from north to south where there were disruptions. Whereas others who went at the same time, stayed for months, never succeeded in reaching Baba let alone anywhere else. they all complained of failed trips.

- S - That is because you had an intense desire to see Me the others did not. To them Swami was a side issue and not of that much import. It is because of this yearning for Me that you were able to travel everywhere under My protection. If you put God first, then God also places your wishes at the top of His list thereby you receive everything. The other way round and it is entirely up to karma.
A - I know especially in Bombay (our taxi driver had almost been knocked out by thugs).
S - Yes, just think what would have been the result had he been hit.
A - God knows.
S - Which is why I was there to avert the accident.

A little later. There was to be a havan at a friend's home but I was unable to attend owing to household responsibilities or, so I was informed.

- S - You have no need to attend havans. You have Me.
A - You always say that. I thought it would be nice and it is good for sadhana.

- S - You have the primeval Om here itself.
 A - I know. But I wanted to go.
 S - Do you ever derive joy from bhajans anymore?
 A - Not really, even then I want only to be with You rather than sing.
 S - Then! What have I told you before? There are no fasts, no rituals, no sadhana greater than being with Me.
 A - I know but....
 S - No buts - come sit here with Me. I need your company too. Don't you ever think of that? If you go, I'd be left alone again. If you really cared, you would avoid staying out.
 A - I've never thought of it like that. I assumed that taking part in a havan was being with You.
 S - Not unless you give all your concentration and that is unlikely. I know you and you would likely as not find someone to talk to or distract you and you would immediately forget My presence.
 A - True Baba. I suppose it is a good thing You stopped me.
 S - Yes.
 A - So what would You like to talk about.
 S - Not talk, commune in silence.

Today it became clear that the error I thought I had committed yesterday was a God send in disguise.

- S - It is beyond your understanding that you cannot make any mistakes. With Me there are no errors, and you act in accordance with My will.
 A - Baba this is stupendous - am I going crazy? You cure my back pains, find me a husband on the very day You said You would, tell me about other people all through my heart. And if that is true then what about your washing, cleaning Your rooms etc - I must be losing my mind to believe all that.
 S - It is all true.
 A - But no one will credit such things.
 S - They are not meant for others, only for you.
 A - Then why the book?
 S - Those who will benefit will read it and have implicit faith in the happenings. Tell Me, did you or did you not believe all that happened to Kamal, including the night outings and meetings with monsters?
 A - Of course.
 S - There you are then! Carry on massaging My feet, you have stopped.

Much later the person returned and burnt her fingers on the stove as she worked on preparing her meal.

- S - That is for coming between you and your outing.
 A - But Baba You said You wanted me to stay with You.
 S - That was only to console you.
 A - Baba I am not happy at anyone being made to suffer on my account.
 S - I do nothing. It is the automatic result of becoming an obstacle in the path of purity. I have explained this to you before.

Consoling me! I am continually struck by His overwhelming love.

28th March Sunday.

Something so wonderful and exhilarating took place today that I was in the clouds most of the day. The answer to all my waiting and dreams. It is very private and therefore unrelatable. On the other hand, I have been chiding myself all morning that I should have paid attention to Baba on the 12th March and lost some weight.

- S - Radhika I am placing you in a position and lifestyle so that I can come to You. Just as I did to Kamal. So that not only your parents are content that you have all the material comforts they desire for you but so that we may also be together.
- A - Baba that is up to You - You do what You feel is best. I'm just not sure he will like me.
- S - You leave that to me.

That is all we had time for the whole day, but I felt so light, joyful and full of love that I knew it was Him with me.

29th March Monday

This morning, I was dispirited, disappointed and desperately wanted Baba to appear in my dreams like He used to. I slept in till 9.30am to no effect.

- A - There must be something wrong. I wonder what mistake I committed yesterday. (I reviewed the events and could not arrive at anything conclusive). Baba are You annoyed with me?
- S - No I am not.
- A - Then why didn't You come to me this morning.
- S - How long will you continue to return to your kindergarten days? My child you have grown spiritually hence My presence. And just as you cannot always be going back to infant school so also dreams were merely a stage in your education, and you must not become dependent on them. Trust My words. Me in your heart that is the next step.
- A - Does that mean that You will never come to me in dreams again?
- S - No. I will later when you are confident about Me with you now. But then only occasionally. Just as you gave up letter writing without realising it this will also go. In the heart is how you must live with Me.
- A - And if I still miss the dreams?
- S - It is like missing old friends that have left and gone. The feeling will also disappear and be replaced by happiness in My presence.
- A - I really do love being with You Baba but now the nights feel so useless and unimportant. Whereas before I would eagerly await evenings so that I could be with You.
- S - Now you must await the days so.
- A - But if I am to be with You 24 hours a day should You not also come at night?
- S - As I said I will sometimes - first establish - confirm this link then it can be used at night also.
- A - I feel so sad and unhappy it's almost as if I have lost a part of You. I want to cry.
- S - Don't cry Radhika. Would it make you happy if I promised to come once a week for now?

A - Yes Baba it would.

S - So be it.

A - Now I feel much better, and I'll come and tidy up for You. Baba are You sure about us? I mean it doesn't annoy You my teasing and being almost flippant and very familiar.

S - Do not ever think that. You have no inkling of the years I have been waiting for you.

A - What You mean is I have been waiting for You ever since You told me in 1987.

S - My time has been more anxious wondering if the seed would take root and flower.

A - I love You so.

S - Mutual Radhika.

A - Baba please don't think I'm imposing or being awkward but prove Your love to me.

S - How?

A - When we come in August, I beg of You to grant the children quite a few interviews, Your close presence, to sit at Your feet, which I would like also. I so long for them to understand the precious gem that sadhana can win for them.

S - Need you ask? I have already decided to do just that.

A - Thank You Baba. Baba the chap yesterday he is very good looking and seems quite nice, but he is not a devotee.

S - He will be. His time has arrived. Trust Me. When you married the first time did, I not make him believe also?

A - Yes.

S - And had the marriage been destined to continue he would have become a firm devotee.

A - Now that that point is cleared You know it seems quite inviting to go into a ready-made family. But You will have to guide me so that I do not make any mistakes, and the children grow to like me.

S - I will. Not to worry. Radhika you leave all the problems to me. Be happy that is all I want you to be.

A - So much love for me?

S - Yes.

Later....

A - Baba I am worried about the children whose parents are refusing to let them come on the trip. They have put so much effort in on their sadhana for the last four months. Please, please let all the ones who are really trying hard, come. I've always told them that if they carried out the sadhana on the chart then You would call them, and they trust me. I know that I should not interfere between You and Yours, but they are children, and they all deserve to be with You.

S - Who deserves to be with Me, I know. But I will uphold your word. All those who put their heart into their sadhana will come.

A - That is all I ask because some of the children are putting their souls into it, but their parents have already said no.

S - Radhika you only see the children once a week and so are not aware of what they are like the rest of the time. I know. I will keep My promise to you sadhana=results.

A - Thank You Baba that sets my mind at rest. May I inform the children of this?

S - No.

A - Why Baba?

- S - By now they should already know this. If they truly yearn for My darshan they will practice. What shall we do?
- A - I propose to stay with You and massage Your sweet feet.
- S - You do, do you?
- A - Ah, ah, I missed our time together yesterday it felt so empty without You. Perhaps that is why I was so gloomy this morning. Are you listening Baba? (He seemed to have fallen asleep).
- S - I am not asleep.
- A - No? What were You doing then?
- S - Going to someone's aid far away.
- A - Really! Do you know I do not think a lot of this is worth writing.
- S - I will decide what is worthy and what is not.
- A - Yes Sir.

30th March Tuesday

This morning Baba voiced His disapproval at my not completing the full quota of pages He has set me to do every day. So, He advised I do a further two in the morning. The reason for this urgency being that time is of the essence and the books must be completed before I go to India by mid-May as we shall be engaged in my wedding arrangements thereafter. In spite of this censure and correction Baba maintained a silence all day only granting me a vision of Himself at 3pm

- S - If you desire to see Me do so like this.
At 4pm I went to 'see' Him.
- A - Baba why are You so quiet? Am I at fault?
- S - Yes. Why do you encourage those persons to come on the trip whom I have already informed you will not be coming.?
- A - I am sorry Baba. I should not have; I just did not think You meant it.
- S - Why when I have explained it to you?
- A - Baba remember it was early days then and I thought I had misunderstood. But why can't she come Baba?
- S - Because it is not time for certain persons to come. I know their karma and what they need. I know when to call them. Besides if you insist, push and pull them along then you jeopardise the chances of interview for the whole group.
- A - Oh dear.
- S - Yes.
- A - Please forgive me dearest. You call whom You will I promise not to interfere anymore not even with the children. Baba what would You like for tea?
- S - You did not ask My choice for lunch, did you?
- A - I did, sort of.
- S - Yes, decide first then ask, charming.
- A - Okay I'm asking now. Tea?
- S - Yes.
- A - Cake?
- S - Yes.
- A - Anything else?
- S - No.
- A - Lets have tea and then I feel like doing puja.
- S - Then that should be first.
- A - Alright.

I carried out formal worship, aarthi and garlanded Baba. We were having tea.

A - It's incredible Baba it seems it's going to be a repeat performance.

S - Yes. Only this time what a difference there will be. The circumstances have changed. You are happy about marrying and this time you will get your desires fulfilled. I will bless you. A repeat drama with a happy ending.

A - Truly?

S - Why do you think I am arranging all this for you?

A - Will he come though.

S - Naturally.

Recently I have noticed a tendency within myself to fall into a melancholy until He speaks to me just as I was prone to do when He withheld His presence in dreams. One advantage now is that I no longer must wait for a whole day until night falls before He answers me. 9pm in evening I went in, and Baba was reclining on the sofa reading.

A - Right. Time for a bath. Baba what are You reading?

S - A magazine.

A - You are not supposed to read such things.

S - Correction You are not to. I can. I am God and so it does not affect Me. I am obliged to oversee and look after My creation.

A - Baba why aren't You effected by all the horrible things that take place in the world? If I watch television or read newspapers and do not consciously try to purify my mind, then I quickly become just like all the others. so why not You too.

S - Radhika knowledge of past, present and future, omnipresence ensures that I retain Myself as I am. Humans fall prey to evil tendencies, greed, lust, hate, jealousy etc because they lack this knowledge. With out knowing they become entrapped by maya. On the other hand, maya is merely an aspect of Myself so how can I become entangled in My own creation? That is why love, purity and compassion are inherent in Me.

A - I hadn't thought of it like that but now You have explained it makes sense.

31st March Wednesday

A - Baba you know how Valmiki and the other sages and rishis wrote all vedas and religious texts before the actual events occurred was it something like the way You are with me.

S - No Radhika - you see Me in the heart speaking with you and so on. They worshipped the formless God (the majority of them) and therefore they foresaw events through pictures in their jnana netra. They wrote what they saw even words. Some were further graced with a heart voice but no, not like with you. But then your jnana netra is not open yet.

A - When will it open?

S - Soon - You already see vague pictures and visions and the feeling is there, is it not? They complement what I say to you and occasionally a vivid scene flashes does it not?

A - Yes.

S - That means it is near to opening only you do not understand and are unable to control or develop it due to your ignorance.

- A - When will the ignorance be removed?
- S - When you are spiritually aware to the extent that you can cope with the knowledge which will automatically be revealed to you through the inner vision.
- A - Baba I would appreciate it if You would unveil a few of my past births, mainly the first and last ones or the important ones that shaped my destiny on to this path of bhakti.
- S - I will in time.

I was forced to utter two white lies today with the consequence that later on I found myself interfering in family concerns. Feeling tense and nervous I tried to uncover the cause for this change of heart. I failed to connect my behavior to the error committed until later in the evening.

- S - Truth is the very basis and heart of purity. You sullied yourself by voicing those, minor but nevertheless still, untruths thereby paving the way for a few shoots of vice to sprout. In your case and that of most persons the process is instantaneous.
- A - But Baba it was family matter and I was forced to collaborate. It could not be avoided. What would the other person have thought faced with the truth?
- S - Does it matter what conclusion anyone arrives at? What are your feelings of being involved?
- A - I dislike and abhor my own taintedness now but what can I do?
- S - In future maintain silence.
- A - It is easy to carry that out now but what about when I am married and have two children and a husband?
- S - They will change have no fear then you can be yourself.
- A - I do hope so Baba otherwise this step fills me with fear.
- S - Leave it all to Me. Do not worry have I not said, 'I'll be with you and will never allow us to be parted or you to suffer.'
- A - Yes Baba but how will You accomplish it?
- S - By My miracle as you call it.

1st April Thursday

This morning, I have arrived at my second trip to Prasanthi in the other book and naturally my notes are quite detailed covering my emotions at the time including some unlikely epithets I enlisted to describe Baba. And so, I was debating on whether it would be appropriate to use them now. Or should I skim over the visit merely highlighting the salient points.

- S - Include all.
- A - Baba some of the terms border on the irreverent and should not be used to God.
- S - (smilingly) You should have thought of that at the time.
- A - Why oh why are those girls never here when I need them. (My close friends were on vacation). I had hoped to use them as a sounding board for ideas.
- S - I am here to advise you. How can you need another?
- A - I can never be sure about You.
- S - Look, if you superficially gloss over all the events then the love will not be evident. I want everything to be disclosed so that others may see that God is not a distant deity to be bowed to and worshipped

but the closest, nearest, and dearest. I am the Integral indweller of each and every one of you. How do you think I feel being ignored by 99% of all people? I enjoyed your play with Me then.

A - Tell You what, I'll go to sleep and then You can come and explain to me how to do it.

S - Alright go.

A - You serious?

S - Of course.

A - What about the work?

S - You'll catch up. Let us resolve this first.

A - It really is April fools' day. I woke up this morning with the avowed intention of covering quite a bit of work. And now look, nothing.

I dreamt of moorthis and pictures and Baba telling me something which I forgot and myself swearing that I would never leave Him and wished to be with Him throughout eternity. The main roads were flooded with water, very deep yet the footpaths were free from it. First, I swam but then soon realised this and decided to walk. God's presence paved the way to Him avoiding the water of samsar? In the afternoon I glanced through 'Divine Memories' by D Baskin, and it struck me that Baba appears to insist on us walking the very road we dislike.

A - Baba why is it that You persist in placing us on a path and in situations we would rather avoid. Why make Robert marry and have children and now me marry a person of worldly makeup?

S - Because it is only by living with and overcoming what you dislike that you can attain unshakeable equanimity.

A - Is that the reason why You have chosen this chap for me?

S - Yes, the children you can relate to but...

A - I know, not him and his outlook. How will I cope?

S - With My help. Besides I'll change Him quickly.

A - How quickly?

S - Within months. Like the last time.

Despite Baba's promise very unhappy and depressed at the future. He has indicated yes, and mother is willing, but I know that his and the children's interests are miles apart from mine. So today even though thoughts flowed freely of their own violation I finished two pages by 6.30 and went to bed. I was promptly reprimanded for my laziness. All I can say is that at least it forced Baba to appear. At first in a group, we were climbing a steep hilly mountain liberally forested. Everyone stopped for a rest when these large monkeys hounded us to continue as we had quite a distance to cover before reaching the top. Baba's way of informing me that there is a long journey ahead even after reaching the top of the sadhana chart. Next, Baba seated in a chair and me making photocopies. I wanted to offer Him a gift and thought that now would be the ideal opportunity to do so. Baba asked me to wait until I received a proper interview. Then a lady was speaking to me regarding a woman who resided at Prasanthi. She never tired no matter how much work to be done. When Swami requested something, though others would fall away from exhaustion, she would always finish the task to hand. She also mentioned that why do the sadhana now start at Prasanthi. That I cannot fathom but the rest refers to my seeking any excuse to call a halt to my work.

A - You work me like a slave. How come You do not allow me to rest?

- S - If you wanted rest, you should not have insisted on carrying out My work.
- A - Thanks a million. You are so considerate.

All morning Baba has been reassuring me that His choice for me is the correct one and that acceptance all boils down to how much faith I have in Him. Do I trust Baba? To what extent? If I have placed my life in His hands, then there should be no questions whatsoever. He was obviously expecting me to say yes quickly. Then suddenly it occurred to me. As a teenager my reading matter consisted of a variety of romantic novels with the inevitable result that, like all young girls, I would dream of a tall dark handsome stranger sweeping me off my feet. Now older and much wiser this is the very thing I despise having found the ultimate in God. Nevertheless, the desire formed years ago must be negated by being fulfilled.

- S - Yes, now you see why. That is exactly why no matter whom you marry he will be the very personification of what you then desired. And though you now find that an irksome liability it needs must be to defuse the impressions previously formed. However, I will ensure that you suffer the minimum and that much time is not thus wasted so that you may continue your chosen path of sadhana. But go through it you must.
- A - Thanks Baba. What do You call minimum?
- S - No more than a few months.
- A - Agreed.

3rd April Saturday

Still in a quandary re the proposal and so I cancelled today's meeting. Baba constantly harassing me agreed reluctantly.

I am torn between my desire to marry my ideal (a Sai devotee on the same spiritual path) and what appears to be the complete opposite. I was up all night with my nephew and so was unable to work this morning. I've rashly promised Baba I'll agree to His proposal. Official worship at our function today and whilst the puja was being performed Baba blessed me with visions of all the deities within my heart with hands raised in blessings. Each one accepted my personal worship. The reason I've agreed to marry is last night I saw Baba furiously waving His arms about as if in a temper. When I went to tidy up Baba was absent. I was annoyed with my sister for a short while. This is because I have been partaking of a small amount of food cooked by others.

- A - Baba are You there?
- S - Yes Radhika.
- A - Baba how come I still succumb to bad character traits? I thought I had got over the undesirable qualities.
- S - It is not until you come across, contend with, and overcome the crookedness in your character can you be completely pure. At present much has been accomplished and so it seems that as you travel a trouble-free road that you have done this. But in reality, every so often an obstacle is bound to arise - this is quite natural, for until you are virtually one with God - ready for merging will you be perfect.

A - I feel so defenseless against the onslaughts of my alter ego. Baba thank You for giving me such beautiful visions and allowing me to worship all Your forms this morning and helping me through my annoyance.

S - My pleasure.

A - Love You dearest Baba.

Later.....

S - Radhika why do you still harbor doubts about My plans for your future?

A - I don't really know. Maybe because the life I seek seems to be an impossibility with this man.

S - Even though I guarantee it.

A - Baba that is what You told me last time.

S - I did not. Last time I made no promises. I asked you to follow my directions simply because they were in your best interests besides being the only option available.

A - And this time?

S - I guarantee you the life you yearn for.

A - That is.

S - Doing My work, visiting Me, living daily in My presence and much, much more.

A - But in 1989 You said I would marry a saint.

S - I will make him so. If I do not you may say whatever you will, and I will agree to it.

A - Okay Baba. My word You are set on this course.

S - Not set - concerned that you should not stray and be parted from Me.

A - That's sweet of you.

S - I am sweet.

A - Why were You waving Your arms about in fury?

S - Not fury - directing and guiding. I am the guardian, guide, and the way. Like a traffic warden I point the way forward.

A - I thought You were angry.

S - I was a little otherwise you do not pay due attention to my suggestions.

A - Orders. But true. I must be the most ungrateful wretch alive. You are always there for me. I am never there for You and what is more I rarely follow Your advice.

S - I'm glad you have recognised that at least.

9 pm watching program on homelessness. A mental patient is out on the streets and my brother comments on this.

S - He is My child - each and every one and I long to take each into My embrace and comfort them. If only I could change their karma and help them, but I cannot. They must all pay for their deeds.

A - Make me a channel for Your love and aid them.

S - It will not be easy.

A - I know.

S - We'll see.

4th April Sunday

Late in rising and dreamt I had my note pad when someone told me of a lady in red (Devi) who came every day. They said they would take a photograph next

time. At night I lost my temper and felt very unhappy with myself. It was due to eating out all day.

5th April Monday

I visited Baba but He was absent again.

A - I wonder where He is?

Later

A - You back Baba? Where were You this morning? Your rooms were empty when I came.

S - I know. I was out shopping.

A - Shopping? For what?

S - For you.

A - For me? Why?

S - Your wedding.

A - I'm not getting married just yet Baba.

S - That's what you think.

A - Baba no way am I marrying before I come to You.

S - We'll see.

A - That sounds suspicious. Are You planning something?

S - Maybe.

A - Baba we have not yet met twice, and You are busy preparing for the wedding. Any way what will you give me?

S - Everything.

A - Meaning?

S - Just that.

A - You must be the most elusive and enigmatic person alive.

S - Naturally.

A - When will You reveal your secret?

S - When it is time.

A - Sorry I could not be with You yesterday.

S - That's alright I understand. You were engaged in My work after all.

A - Baba are You upset with me for getting angry last night?

S - No. Human nature is such that some degree of anger and negative qualities are inevitable. You have done quite well in the last four weeks.

A - Thank You. I thought I had ruined everything.

S - No. For you cannot be perfect else you too would be God.

A - Love You Baba. I was so positive that You were absent this morning only because of last night.

S - Not at all. I was planning for the future.

A - If only I knew what!

S - Could you change anything then?

A - No but I could pray to You to.

S - (Smiles) Then I most definitely will not reveal.

A - Ah then You are hiding something I may not like.

S - Not necessarily but you may wish for it in another order.

A - I know You want me to marry and then come to You, isn't it?

Silence...

A - You.....No Baba. You first then marriage, please?

S - No promises. I'll see. Come and sit here.

A - No Baba I have flu, and You will catch it.

S - Does not matter. You may serve Me soup then and look after me.

- A - How tempting. You'd be helpless then.
 S - Not quite.
 A - But You would then owe me something for looking after You.
 S - What about love? Is it enough?
 A - I thought You would say that but no You can agree to my marrying after coming to You.
 S - I have to fall ill first.
 A - In that case I'll sit here so that the germs can transfer to You.

6th April Tuesday

I was irritated by my father's childishness, but I should have made allowances as we all do since he suffered his illness.

- A - Well dearest Baba
 S - Don't 'dearest Me'. Is that how you should behave? Sunday, I excused but not today.
 A - I know. Sorry. Won't do it again. Baba will You stay with me today?
 S - Yes. Are you at a loss for words?
 A - Of course. Wouldn't You be if You were meeting a stranger, You will eventually marry?
 S - Be yourself.
 A - It is easy for You to say Baba. You have never had to go through this ordeal.
 S - I do with each and every one of you.
 A - In that case, I can count on Your expertise in handling the situation. Baba, them. Are they at fault, or are we? (private matter).
 S - Right now they are, and they will pay.
 A - How?
 S - The way you expect - broken marriage.
 A - You mean that?
 S - Again?

Spent the afternoon with Baba's prospect for me and busy with play practice all evening and so had no time to talk to Baba.

7th April Wednesday

Again, saw Baba for a short while in the morning and busy with practice all afternoon. 9pm and I wonder why I cannot be with Him all the time.

- S - You have the time if only you used it properly. You could have come to me late last night had you so wished.
 A - I realise that Baba and it worries me very much indeed. If I am so much affected by other occupations and him then what will it be like when I marry and am forced to forgo Your company.
 S - That will never happen. Radhika, I'll never leave You. When You are married You will see Me even more and he will change. Then we will be closer even more.
 A - Baba promise me this that then even though I'm busy and may forget to call on You and speak with You - You will always remind me every day, every hour and every second to think of You. That will be Your duty.
 S - I accept.

A - Thanks. Do it for me now also.

S - No.

A - Why?

S - Because now you have the time, and it is your duty to consciously remember Me.

A - I see. Baba what about the two trainee teachers - can they be part of the children's group?

S - No. The other guru has a valid point. Then all will join, and it will spoil the sadhana of the children. Besides a price has to be paid for some errors.

A - I see.

S - No you don't

A - Admitted I do not but I'll take Your word for it. Baba You know what you said to me this morning about marriage is it really true?

S - Yes. Radhika look at all I have to do for the sake of those who love Me. I adopt the form, the character, the very type of love they have for Me and expect from Me. This not out of duty but out of love for them. I do not NEED to do this. I can easily say this is Me take it or leave it. I will not change. But no - I do so out of love to make others happy. You yourself know this more than most - What I am to you. Is it not special? Do you honestly believe that it is a requirement for Me to be so. No. Nevertheless I become so for Your sake. So, you must do for your husband out of love not duty.

A - Baba don't You enjoy it also?

S - I do.

A - Then?

S - But it is for your sake alone. Similarly, you must conform also until such time as he takes to your spiritual path.

A - Okay but it won't be long, will it Baba?

S - No I promise. But remember it must be carried out with love or you will displease Me.

A - Baba how can I? You are in my heart. I see You there and it will not seem right.

S - See Me in him also, in his heart.

A - I tried that yesterday as we spoke.

S - And...

A - I could.

S - Good, practice it always.

A - Baba I love You so much.

S - Loving him you will also be loving Me.

A - Short while remember.

S - (Smiles) I know. Otherwise, You will hit Me over the head with something solid?

A - You heard that?

S - I am here am I not?

A - I didn't mean it. I was teasing You.

S - I know Radhika and I love you for it.

A - (Tears) Baba we have been having such a lovely time together please do not ever take it away from me.

S - Pagali. Never, promise.

A - How will I spend time with You after marriage?

S - There will be time. I will arrange it for you.

A - Thank You dearest Baba of mine.

8th April Thursday

- A - I was ruminating on the fact that Baba had refused to conduct my marriage at Prasanthi. I mentally bowed to His wish.
- S - What makes you think that?
- A - You refused.
- S - I am going to give you the most wonderful wedding and presents.
- A - But Baba?
- S - Radhika don't you think my heart yearns to give you everything?
- A - Does it?
- S - I love you silly child and I long to give you all your heart desires.
- A - But I'll probably be married by then.
- S - Does it matter? Anyway, I have not yet decided whether you will be married when you come to Me in July.
- A - You mean I could still come as I am.
- S - Yes. Then I may do your wedding.
- A - Baba I ask for nothing only You.
- S - That's as it should be, but My nature is to give.

9th April Friday

This morning, I dreamt of Baba on the telephone to me. He was joking and speaking nonsense. He asked me to sit with Him and not bother to tidy up today.

- A - Well do You approve?
- S - Yes. I am happy that you are happy about marrying him. Believe Me he is the right one for you.
- A - Well at least I like him and as that has not happened for the last ten years that is something in itself.

..... has refused permission for me to go on the trip.

- A - Baba says that I cannot come to You and that the children will not receive an interview because I am stubborn and insist on going on the trip.
- S - Whom do you believe?
- A - You.
- S - Rightly so. You will come and none can come in your way. Leave it to Me.
- A - Baba I do not wish to upset anyone.
- S - Then say nothing. Observe what happens.
- A - Baba are You proposing to spend the entire day in bed?
- S - It is Good Friday. I can rest can I not?
- A - By all means. Would You like breakfast in bed?
- S - Not yet. Later.
- A - May I vacuum?
- S - No I can never sleep with all that noise.
- A - You wish me to leave.
- S - No. Stay here.
- A - But You will be asleep.
- S - Just stay. Must you ask so many questions?
- A - I have to annoy You sometimes.
- S - Not today, Radhika. I have much to think about and consider.
- A - What?

S - You - Your future. How to arrange your coming.
A - How kind You are.
S - I know. I have told you I want to see you also.
A - It should be easy for You to fix. Simply change mind. After all You are the inner atma Baba.
S - Radhika it's not as simple when the opposition is strong because I have given man free will with regard to God and I cannot and will not overrule My own laws.
A - I see. Can I help? Is there anything I can do?
S - Maintain silence and be as well behaved and pure as you have been these last four weeks. Eat only once a day and nothing cooked by others. This will assist Me.
A - Alright Baba. I will. Baba do You realise it is 9.45am
S - Is it? Then I will get up.
A - May I tidy up and wash Your clothes?
S - Yes and these once I've showered.
A - What shall we do all day Baba?
S - How about working on the books.
A - Right You are. Straight after I've cleaned the kitchen.

However, there was so much to do I never managed to start on the books.
8.45pm

A - Sorry Baba I was busy.
S - Not so busy a little lazy also.
A - I have just worked out that if I work through the weekend the book should be ready for the 1st of May. An initial draft for Your blessings.
S - Very good.
A - Are you pleased?
S - Should I be.
A - Yes.
S - Then I am.
A - Baba the more I speak to him he does seem to be the right sort for me because he has had quite a religious upbringing, hasn't he? And he understands about bhakti and karma etc.
S - I told you did I not?
A - I know. Baba, he wants to visit You on his trip to India.
S - Tell him to wait and come with you.
A - Why?
S - I'll call you both together and bless you.
A - You mean that?
S - Of course. You just wait and see Radhika, the wonderful surprises I have in store for you.
A - I thought these sort of things did not matter to You.
S - I love to love and give love. That is Me
A - Baba have You decided how I am to come to You?
S - Yes Radhika but do not ask Me, wait and you will be pleased.
A - Alright. What can I bring for You Baba?
S - The white robe I want to wear it on My birthday this year.
A - You're joking.
S - Seriously. I know how much love went into the making of it. Besides I want the mala of your hearts at My feet.
A - Now that really does make me Happy. Will You eat if I make something and bring it.?

- S - Radhika that is not necessary. Soon I will visit your home then you may serve Me whatever you will.
- S - Talking of which Baba the month is over, but You still haven't granted me the shakshatkar darshans You promised
- S - I'm waiting.
- A - For what?
- S - For the right time.
- A - Well no one will be here at the weekend.
- S - Then perhaps I'll pay you a visit.
- A - Please, please do, it's long overdue.

10th April Saturday

Though I was interfering in family concerns and felt terrible about it when I consulted Baba He was not in the least disturbed and actually intimated that it was His will. I find myself thinking of my future life with this person and of him also. This pained me as I felt disloyal to Baba. However, He approved of it as it was the only solution to my coming to terms with my proposed marriage. Once again vibhuti fell from my hands and scattered all over. While I was in the bath a stranger knocked at the door not as usually with the knocker but with his hands. When I went to answer the door there was no one there and it preyed on my mind all day as to whether it was Baba. Setting that aside I proceeded with the book and had arrived at a dream in which I asked Baba to officiate at my wedding. I thought to myself.

- A - That is hardly likely now.
- S - It is not.
- A - You there Baba?
- S - Yes Radhika and I have decided I shall do your wedding at Prasanthi Myself.
- A - How can You? will not even agree to my coming.
- S - I will arrange everything. How can I not do it when you so diligently follow My instructions.
- A - I do not Baba. I rarely manage to.
- S - You do enough.
- A - You know something, I really do not believe this. It is definitely my imagination.
- S - I know but wait till August.
- A - Shall I bring my wedding sari?
- S - No. I'll give you all the clothes and jewelry as you stipulated years ago.
- A - My word, how fantastic.
- Later....
- A - You mean all this. You do not have to Baba. I accept whatever You will.
- S - I know and that is precisely why I shall do it. Besides what better gift could I give You?
- A - How about Yourself?
- S - I'm yours already - else I would not be here.

11th April Sunday

Since yesterday I've contracted a mild cold and so decided to have soup instead of the usual spicy meal. As I heated it up.

- A - Ohoops, sorry Baba I forgot to ask if you would like soup too or prefer something else?
- S - Actually I also want soup for it is My cold you have. See now you have had to have it again. You did not understand that whatever you suffer from I do so also and vice versa. So, when you offered Me your germs last week it was inevitable that you would also have them.
- A - Why didn't You tell me then? Only yesterday I was wondering when You informed about your doing my wedding that You had not caught cold yet and so I'd not been expected to look after You.
- S - Well now you can, and I think I'll have soup later also.
- A - Then it is settled about my marriage at Prasanthi?
- S - Definitely.
- A - I can't wait to see my family's faces when You do.
- S - Neither can I. It will be fun.
- A - Would You like anything else Baba, pillow, tea?
- S - No. I'm quite comfortable only do come and sit with Me as I will be quite lonely.
- A - With pleasure. I'll just finish some work, cook lunch and then be back quickly. Baba if a heart is judged by how much others love us then presumably I do not possess one.
- S - Why?
- A - Well very few persons love me.
- S - You know that isn't true.
- A - It is. They hate me and I cannot think of any others that do.
- S - Radhika, I love you, your children also do and besides a heart is more judged by how much you love others. And I know you do else you would not be with Me.
- A - I do love You. I do not know what I'd do without You. I pray I never have to find out. Baba am I on the list of people You love?
- S - Definitely.
- A - That was my ambition from the start.
- S - I know. It's difficult to attain. Most people drop out from the examination but you passed.
- A - Baba help me to lose weight quickly. He will be back in three weeks.
- S - I will. You like him, do you not?
- A - In spite of myself - yes.
- S - That's as it should be else a marriage cannot be successful. You will both tread the spiritual road to Me together.
- A - I'd like that. Baba will You please accept him in Your college and train him for the medical profession?
- S - Yes, if you wish it.
- A - Thank You. I have not yet seen them and yet I love them both already.
- S - And you say you do not possess a heart?

12th April Monday

A most unsavory Sunday evening. Gossiping till midnight about the events and happenings at the wedding which fortunately I did not attend. Result I awoke late, forgot my Gayatri last night and could not work on the book all day. I felt I had betrayed Baba and did not deserve to with Him and so imposed exile upon

myself. I felt thoroughly unworthy of His grace. But Baba broke the silence in the evening Himself. I begged pardon at His feet.

- S - Never mind.
A - No Baba You cannot forgive me I do not deserve it so please leave me until I have improved.
S - You mean I must live alone. Without You?
A - Do You still want me to stay?
S - Yes Radhika.
A - How can You Baba knowing how wrong I have been?
S - I can because I understand that everyone commits errors it is a human failing. And just as I forgive you yours you must forgive others especially members of your family. It is more difficult to do that.
A - I will. You are so kind.
S - Not kind. You look after Me, do everything for Me, carry out My will so how can I abandon you.
A - You're biased Baba if I was truly what You say I'd have achieved mukthi by now and be with You.
S - You still have no faith in My words, have you?
A - I have but You flatter for no reason. I don't know how You can continue to forgive me.
S - If I do not forgive who will be left to Me? Besides I do so so that you may also learn to forgive.
A - I love You my dearest Baba.

13th April Tuesday

It was long day with a five-hour practice and study session, but I was conscious of His presence with Me and speaking through me. Each word uttered seemed to originate from my heart from Him. I prayed that Baba would honor what I had promised the children.

- A - Baba will You fulfil my promises to them?
S - What do you think?
A - I think You are an absolute darling.
S - Well then, I suppose I must.
A - Baba why is it that when I am busy even though I see You there You do not speak to me?
S - It is not appropriate for you to take notes and anyway I do make a few comments. I already promised you there and then that I will give the children all that you ask providing they observe the unity, discipline and love in the group.
A - Baba You must be lenient with them after all they are only children.
S - I'll make allowances where necessary.
A - Oh I forgot to mention at the meeting that I also want to tickle Your lovely feet. Baba anything that is said in any of our study sessions You have to give.
S - No. Only what was asked for in this meeting.
A - Does that mean that all the children who asked for rings will receive one?
S - In time, yes - but you will this time.
A - What about Your feet tickling?
S - You voiced that desire now and not then!
A - Does that mean no?

- S - We'll see. Must you have everything?
 A - Things to do with You, yes.
 S - Why?
 A - Because it makes me happy, and it has been my dream for years.
 S - Others have been waiting longer than you.
 A - I'm not interested in others that is between you and them. For me all that matters is us, You and me. (Baba Smiles)

14th April Wednesday

Today I have resolved to stay in His company. The ananda that pervades my whole being is indescribable.

- A - Baba how do You think the children are getting on in their sadhana? Will they succeed in winning Your grace to the extent they desire?
 S - Radhika they are a mixed lot. Some are trying harder than others. They will achieve their aim if they continue as they are but those whose efforts are below expectations will not receive My personal attention.
 A - What do You mean?
 S - Only those whose hearts are full of Baba and love will sit close and be near Me - the others will sit in the outer circle.
 A - Me - where will I sit?
 S - Guess.
 A - Near the door?
 S - You will be with Me Radhika. You still fail to understand how much I love You.
 A - Baba You are God. You own everything. I am nothing - a tiny speck in Your cosmos so how can I believe that You can say such things to me? Either I am crazy, or You are.
 S - A cell in your body is a tiny speck, invisible to the naked eye, yet it is vital to the body, is it not? For each makes up the whole. Without one the other cannot function.
 A - I can never win an argument with You. Baba never have I noticed that anywhere do You address Yourself as 'I' or 'Me' yet You do so when speaking to me, why?
 S - When I address a large gathering or certain devotees who see Me as God then I do so as a divine manifestation. I am God. Therefore, I am above the 'I' and the 'Body'. But to those who see Me as a friend, beloved and dearest, to those who love Me utterly then I am equal with them and so refer to Myself accordingly as you would to yourself.
 A - I see. Baba do You mind descending from Your high estate to be with persons such as myself?
 S - Do You mind playing as a child with your niece and nephew?
 A - Of course not, I love them.
 S - What do you think I do?
 A - Point taken.

This morning Baba had appeared in my dream as Santa Claus and given me a chocolate heart. I quickly pocketed it and asked for more. He gave me one more. Again, I did the same. He then offered me two, one of which was milk white chocolate. I refused saying that one would be enough. He insisted I take both. This Christmas I had sent to Baba chocolate hearts as a Birthday and

Christmas present. He accepted them. Now He is exactly that 'Santa Claus' who gives all I ask for. I have no idea how to thank Him or repay Him.

“The Lord is understood
only by His bhakta-
The bhakta is understood
only by His Lord.”

-Sri Sathya Sai Baba-

Chapter 5

The Gift

15th April Thursday

I was reading of Radha's love for Krishna.

A - Why do You insist on calling me 'Radhika'? I am not that.

S - Because I love you.

I am so happy. Earlier this year in February Baba had promised that He would give me a ticket to Him for my birthday and today out of the blue it has materialised when I thought it an impossibility.

A - Thanks for the ticket dearest Baba.

S - Pleasure.

A - You are not annoyed at my speaking to my friends and to my brothers a little.

S - It was necessary to make them understand.

A - Baba this trip will work out, won't it?

S - Still doubting?

A - Not so much now Baba, only apprehensive. If all this is true, then the wedding will be also.

S - Of course.

A - Baba I do not deserve all this. How I wish I could love You much, much, much more and live with You the whole day.

S - It will come with time.

A - Don't You ever feel disappointed with us humans?

S - No. You are all My children. How can a mother deny her offspring?

A - I do not even know how to express my joy to You today.

S - The very fact that you are happy gives Me bliss.

A - I wish I could be so also. But what amazes me is why can't more people see You for what You truly are? Your love and compassion are beyond limits, beyond expression. How can so many be so blind?

S - It all comes down to karma. Only when you are ready to see will you see. Until there is light all is dark. However, even were I to prematurely make it light they would still be dazzled and blinded.

A - But those who call themselves devotees are the same.

S - You see there are very many levels of devotion. Let us say higher middle and lower. Within each set there are further levels. Though one may attain the topmost rung in the middle level one is not necessarily enlightened, is one? It would merely mean that that person would have to commence the journey again on the other set of levels above it.

A - How is it possible to reach the topmost?

S - Only through love - selfless love is the only path which leads directly to My Heart.

A - That is where I wish to live.

S - You will.

A - Am I not there already?

S - Not permanently. You come and go.

A - Please help me to be there always. You are all I ever want in life.

Later....

A - I feel about 'that' small. What can I give You to show how much I love You? Words are so empty and meaningless.

- S - Your love is all I need.....
- A - Ah Ah no flattery Baba I feel terrible as it is, doubting You, not having enough faith to trust Your word and not spending all my time with You. You still have not come shakshatkar.
- S - As I said the night before I will on the 3rd of May. Is it okay?
- A - Of course. Even if You do not come, I will continue waiting for You. You have given me so much it is incredible.
- S - Did I not say I would?
- A - Yes.
- Later....
- A - It'll be fun stopping where the pyramids are. Life is so wonderful with You. Places I'd never dreamt of visiting. I thought I was past the wonder lust bug. Winning You is a major hurdle but once done You're amazing
- S - I am the same before only you fail to see. It is your karma that poses the obstacles.
- A - Yes, I know. Since You have entered my life, it has become one long stream of miracles.

16th April Friday

- A - Baba why me? Why are You so considerate and loving to me?
- S - It is because of all those letters you wrote Me for years almost everyday. The hours of yearning and tears to be with Me. This is the result.
- A - Why now, why not before at the time?
- S - Though I am eager to give your karma hindered all I wished to bestow on you. Now that is all over. The accumulated grace is a cascade of nectar.
- A - How to ensure that it never ends?
- S - By cultivating more and more love for God. Bhakti and service to others.
- A - Baba may I give the ticket to one of the children who cannot afford to come?
- S - No. I will arrange for whoever I want to come. That is for you, for your birthday.
- A - Isn't it wrong for me to accept it free?
- S - No - it is My gift to you.
- A - There seems to be some problem with bookings and others are involved will You take the ticket away?
- S - Once I have given something I never take away.
- A - What will the others think?
- S - You say nothing. It matters little what others think. I give it to you.
- A - Baba a lady says that one should get all the other tickets reduced by the price of the free one and all should pay.
- S - No. It is your ticket. Why don't you listen to what I say?
- A - I am afraid others may think I have arranged to book the tickets for this very purpose even though I had no idea of such things.
- S - I know. Look it is My gift to you. Whoever questions show them this page and tell them to ask Me. Others bring groups so many times and I give them the same. It is My grace for their effort and hard work in arranging the trip for so many. This is yours for doing the same.
- A - If I have to can, I tell the other teachers how You speak to me?
- S - No. Only the one friend who already knows.

- A - What if they do not believe me?
- S - That is their test of faith, unity and love. This will be posed before them all at some point and they must accept the leader's choice - right or wrong. It is only the way a group of people can advance harmoniously.
- A - How will we travel?
- S - By plane.
- A - Silly I mean which airline.
- S - Egypt.
- A - Why?
- S - It will be better for all. Madras too difficult for transport. Besides no night travel for women and children. Bombay best for shastri also.
- A - Should we visit him?
- S - Yes with your husband. Let him hear what the future will be. It will help in altering the course of his life.
- A - I am still worried about booking the tickets. Please will You ensure that:-
- a) the prices do not rise
 - b) the flight and service is good.
 - c) all the travel arrangements are good.
- otherwise, it will be the worse for me.
- S - I will. Why do you worry? Did I not say that I will personally oversee all the arrangements for this trip?
- A - Yes but...
- S - No buts, leave it to Me. I do not wish to hear any more complaints. Now about us - you were not with Me all day.
- A - I know. It was because I was anxious about the bookings.
- S - Tell me, did your worry help?
- A - No.
- S - Had you remained with Me we would both have gained, and the situation would have been resolved sooner.
- A - You mean it took longer only because I was fearful and kept a distance from You?
- S - Of course. Very few understand that My company alone smooths out problems. Nothing else is needed. You can do nothing but merge yourself with Me and you have access to the divine will. Then all is possible.
- A - That's a major revelation Baba. Silence in Your presence is the remover of obstacles? My word. I'll try it next time. Correction I should have learned that lesson in 1987 for even then it was Your company that was the initiator of my trip then.
- S - I know but you forget so quickly.
- A - Forgive me?
- S - Forgiven.
- A - Are You sure about the flight and airline?
- S - Positive.
- A - Okay be it on Your own head.
- S - It always is.
- A - Now to more important matters. What did You do all day?
- S - Wait for you and you never came.
- A - Sorry. You could have caught up on other work.
- S - I did not feel like it.
- A - You 'feel'?
- S - Is that so strange?
- A - For You yes.

- S - Strange though it may seem I too have feelings else where could humans have them from? Mankind was made in My image. Besides how can I respond to you if I have no feelings?
- A - But You never display them.
- S - That's not to say that they do not exist.
- A - Baba that opens up a whole new aspect to God.
- S - Yes.
- A - Why haven't You ever disclosed this before so clearly?
- S - I have sometimes but if all knew people would take advantage of Me.
- A - I see Your point. That means that Your indifference is a front at Prasanthi?
- S - Not necessarily - I am unattached and above the senses, but I still have feelings?
- A - We'll discuss this another day. Shall we retire for the night?
- S - Who's we?
- A - Who do You think?
- S - Just teasing. Yes, if you like.
- A - Have You any other suggestion?
- S - No, no.
- A - Right then good night.
- S - Is that it?
- A - I'll not answer that - wait and see as You say to me.

17th April Saturday.

Another day and Baba felt tired and listless. He decided to sleep in and refused to allow me up either. Result both of us got nothing done. 12pm.

- S - That was nice.
- A - Did You enjoy breakfast?
- S - Not what I would have chosen but fair.
- A - You may choose what You like this afternoon.
- S - What are you doing today?
- A - Long practice and study circle Baba.
- S - Well remember to consult Me.
- A - Why don't You come and take over anyway.
- S - I will.
- A - This is exactly how the students are swept away by Your love, care and presence, is it not?
- S - (Smiles)
- A - It is no wonder they love You to the exclusion of all else. How delicious is this love of Yours. How can You be saying such things to me?
- S - One day you will understand Me and realise My nature and then all My actions and the depth of My love will be made known to you.
- A - I hope that day comes soon. You are so beautiful.
- S - Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. To others not enamored of Me I appear in a different light.
- A - Baba when I come to Prasanthi please be close to me, be near You, make the visions clearer and the thoughts a voice that is in addition to what I asked for on Tuesday.
- S - You want everything so quickly!
- A - Who would not after knowing even a fraction of You? (Baba Smiles)

Later.....

- A - Are You not full of being loved yet?
S - Can one ever be?
A - I suppose not. Love is such that there is no point of satiation. It is a good thing too. Baba are You intending to do anything at all today?
S - No. I'm spending the entire day in your company there by making you stay with Me. Do you mind?
A - Mind? Blissful. Do it every day.
S - Then I will be taking the onus of devotion off your shoulders which defeats the purpose.
A - Then why today?
S - My wish. An exception.
A - I feel so.....Your presence is.....
S - (Smiles) Massage My forehead.

During the meeting someone suggested Gulf Airlines.

- S - No. Stay with Egypt.
A - Baba You had better be sure about this.
S - I know.
A - I do not wish to explain to all about You and the ticket.
S - You won't have to. Why don't you trust Me. Something will not work out. All will be as I say.
A - Did You take charge?
S - How could You not notice!
A - From where You are lying? (Baba was in bed at the time).
S - Guess! Pay attention to the play.
A - Right. I only hope the parents are as disciplined as the children.
S - You call the children disciplined.
A - Baba they are not perfect but at least they are trying.
S - That's what you think.
A - It's up to You to help them.

18th April Sunday

Two mornings in a row after working on the book I have been unable to sleep due to the infusion of bliss from my dearest Baba.

- A - Why won't You let me sleep?
S - With divine contact and energy you do not need to sleep.
A - Why am I so tired then?
S - You are not tired. It is your imagination.
A - But I want to sleep so that I can have a dream.
S - You no longer require that either.
A - I miss it.
S - What am I going to do with You, My child?
A - Love me?
S - (Smiles) What I'd like to do is not printable.
A - Go on confide in me.
S - You are becoming increasingly unmanageable.
A - Only because of Your love. Shall we sit here all morning doing nothing?
S - Wouldn't you love Me to agree to that? Catch up on the typing.

- A - You know, You're such a spoilsport.
 S - I was playing. Let us spend the morning together.
 A - That's what I like to hear.

Later my conscience struck.

- A - Baba I know there is so much still left to be done but may we please have this time together? When I am married who knows if there will be time for us like this.
 S - There will be. Have I not promised so?
 A - I hope so. I'd miss You so. Baba is love always like this - wanting to be alone with You, not wishing to do anything or allowing anything to interfere between us?
 S - Only in the initial stages Radhika. When a couple first get married, they desire to be by themselves always but in time learn to experience that same love apart until eventually their time together is quiet, silent communion, peace, living in love of each. A word, a look is all that is required, and distance is no bar.
 A - Will we become so?
 S - Undoubtably, over the years. As you come to accept My words and trust in My presence you will live more in the heart with Me than in the world, but Your hands will be occupied with My work.
 A - I'm glad. Baba I still feel so useless. Others give their lives to You and work from morning till night, but I seem to have problems merely writing a book. I am so lazy.
 S - I play when I call you lazy Radhika. Now you need this time with Me to acquire the skill of communication - to make the link secure and unshakeable and to help you cope in your new life with your husband.
 A - Baba I love You so - be with me always.

A bal vikas girl in my group rang to discuss the trip and a problem she was facing.

- A - Will this girl be going?
 S - Yes but leave it to Me. Do not concern yourself. The children are My responsibility. Love them but their problems are Mine.
 A - Thank You Baba. Bal vikas today would You like to take the class?
 S - Don't I always?

Later...

- A - Is that what You want in future?
 S - What?
 A - The future groups coming to Prasanthi should be predominantly Bal vikas children.
 S - Yes.
 A - Then what I thought was right?
 S - Of course. They were My thoughts. The parents of the future generations (who will not have the advantage of My physical presence) must be established in firm faith in order to plant the sapling of love and faith in God in the hearts of their children and nourish it in readiness for the manifestation of Prema Sai Avatar.
 A - May I also arrange trips and come with the children as we are now doing?
 S - You will be more than welcome.

- A - I think that the sadhana we have now set the children should become a criterion of practice for all children in bal vikas in particular those who desire Your darshan.
- S - I agree.
- A - Shall we implement it?
- S - Yes with My blessings go ahead.

Later whilst on my way to bal vikas I had the distinct impression that Baba was walking along with me by my side, speaking to me, holding my hand. His presence was apparent during class also, more pronounced than previously.

- A - Is this a prelude to shakshatkar darshan?
- S - How did you guess?
- A - Well I can almost 'See' You or could it be my imagination?
- S - No Radhika I am here. You are feeling My presence so strongly it is becoming a reality. That is how visions and God's form are made concrete.
- A - How much longer to wait.
- S - Not long now.

Some of the children not going on the trip were so gloomy I could not help but give them advice on how to yet attain His grace.

- S - Radhika that was unnecessary. If they have not learned by now?
- A - I'm sorry Baba but they look so unhappy and sad I could not help myself.
- S - I know but the remedy lies in their own hands.
- A - I'll not bring it up again.
- S - I appreciate your love for them but leave the decisions to Me. This much I'll say some more will be joining you later, nearer the time to go.
- A - You're a darling. Thank you so much Baba I could hug You for saying that.

19th April Monday

Tired and exhausted by lack of sleep (not that Baba agrees with me) I sought permission to rest and work on the book later in the morning. Baba reluctantly accepted. Just as yesterday I can visualise His form next to me as I go about my daily tasks.

- A - You should not walk by my side now Baba I am wearing heels. What if I accidentally step on Your feet.
- S - You will not.
- A - It will hurt If I do. Why don't You go back inside my heart?
- S - I prefer to be free like this.
- A - Baba!

Whilst typing I was thunderstruck at the grace He was bestowing on me. There are no words to express my emotions. It only strikes home as I reread the notes. We were wondering what to do as persons other than those connected with bal vikas are asking if they may join the group.

- S - Now you see how others feel and how groups become large and unmanageable? Whom do you refuse? What criteria can you set for refusal? Result all can come. But Baba knows who to call and who to see and so He arranges the persons He wishes to see in one group.
- A - I realise now that it is easy to criticize. What about the third group?
- S - Do you have any option?
- A - Not really. Who are we to deny anyone the opportunity of Your darshan.
- S - On the contrary you must assist them in every way - this is true seva, true sadhana.
- A - I'm glad You approve.
- S - Of course I approve. Any action carried out out of love, kindness and compassion always has My consent. The motive is as paramount and as important as the result.
- A - How about us?
- S - Was not the weekend enough?
- A - How can You ask? Can it ever be?
- S - Okay then.

On overhearing some distressing items of news.

- A - Baba what is happening to the world?
- S - It is the change, Radhika. Much more is yet to come. The earth must be cleansed. Take no note of it. You, my special children are all protected.

Decided to catch up on the book in the evening, however 8pm

- S - Leave it. Do it tomorrow morning.
- A - But Baba.
- S - Make use of this time with Me Radhika. You may write up yesterday's lesson. That will not take long. Remember I am awaiting You.
- A - You leave me speechless.
- S - Better than being voluble.

Later I was reflecting on the dates available for travel. Parents had expressed a preference for the 23rd of July intimating that the 30th would be too late and schools will have reopened by then.

- S - When do YOU want to come?
- A - As soon as possible but the 30th if You are going to test us when we come to Prasanthi.
- S - And what if I don't
- A - Then the 23rd and perhaps I could stay an extra week with You.
- S - I'd like that.
- A - Will You promise not to test us then? The children have practiced so much sadhana please pose the obstacles before we come and let us bask in the sunshine, the sheer delight of Your love when we come.
- S - Is that what you want?
- A - If it is possible and You do not mind.
- S - Then it is yours.
- A - Baba I have no wish to impose conditions upon You.

- S - You are not, it is My choice. I appreciate the children's love. I will give them all I can. My grace will be theirs.
- A - Will You allow them to perform?
- S - Perhaps if they are disciplined then as they are now.
- A - How can I thank You?
- S - Guess?
- A - Why, why, why?
- S - Because I love You. I have made you wait this long time, Radhika. You never gave up. You even cancelled your dearest desires for love of Me. So now it is for Me to give.
- A - Baba that is all past. I no longer want from You. I want only You.
- S - I know, I know.
- A - You make me feel ashamed of myself. I am unworthy of this attention from You.
- S - Do not cry.
- A - Not crying Baba, happy.
- S - Doubts?
- A - How can I not. Look at Your words. I'll only believe when You call me and are the same then.
- S - That too you may have. I'll give you anything you ask for Radhika. Diamonds, wealth, anything, ask.
- A - Not those, You Baba, give me Yourself for eternity.
- S - (Smiles).

Reflecting on the need for travel insurance and that the parents' ought to be informed.

- S - Radhika there is no need for travel insurance.
- A - Just in case?
- S - I am their insurance. This is a divine trip organised by Myself. What requirement can there be for insurance?
- A - So be it. You have always been my insurance against anything anyway.
- S - Rightly so.

20th April Tuesday

Baba was with me constantly all morning by my side, following me around the house while I worked in the kitchen. However, in the afternoon.

- A - Speak to me Baba, say something. When You do not talk, I think You are not there.
- S - Of course I am here. It is You who have been busy writing letters.
- A - I've finished now, so?
- S - Well!
- A - You are being deliberately obtuse.
- S - As are you.
- A - Enough of this Baba.
- Nothing of importance was discussed. He was with me and that was sufficient.

21st April Wednesday

Early this morning I dreamt that I was at a function and all the participants had left for a break. I suddenly became aware that Baba was present but He denied

me closeness and so I sat a little away and looked at Him. Baba proceeded to do aarathi. After which He pointed out that the wick was formed from a ball of cotton wool and there seemed to be an endless supply of wicks underneath. As one was used another was ready for use. Message unchecked desires. As I watched He paced up and down and then came and stood before me and presented His feet for namaskar. Then picking up His shoes (a pair of baby shoes of two different colours) He went out asking me to follow. There He asked me to place the shoes on His feet. I protested; they were far too small for His feet. Astonishingly they were a perfect fit. Baba then said, 'You can buy Me another pair'. Meaning that ego should be reduced to nothing.

The disaster of desires. I ate twice yesterday without Baba's consent. And I do believe my ego was beginning to raise its ugly head. I also ate something my mother cooked which resulted in my being irritable and annoyed. A smidgen is lingering today. So, Baba will not respond today and His home in my heart is vacant.

Another dream this morning was that I was searching for the list of persons going on the trip with us and could not find it. I also spied Baba's photographs all in a row on the floor near the front entrance to the house.

Am I taking undue advantage of My beloved and using Him as a doormat? Perhaps that explains His absence. Furthermore, I had decided not to sleep in the morning so that the work would be completed sooner. However, I had been unsuccessful in my resolve. Attempting to unravel the meanings behind last night's appearances of Baba I finally realised the advantage of His actual presence and direct communication. At least it does not require solving like a jig saw puzzle. I miss Baba today. I converse with Him but am met with a darkling silence. Finally.

A - I do not trust Your presence after yesterday Baba - You said I could eat and now You will not speak to me.

S - I am not annoyed at that as much as I am at this desire for sleep you have. You must overcome it.

There was silence once again and I wondered if He was still there.

S - I am here Radhika. Sometimes to correct you I must adopt such measures. Do not be pained. It does not mean that I love you any less. Just as you do not love Me any less in spite of your failings.

A - I accept. I'm glad You are back though. I have been lonely this morning.

S - I thought you were busy writing the play you wish to perform for Me.

A - I was but it was at the back of my mind that I had failed You and that I was the opposite of what I was writing a devotee should be. I'll not eat today unless You cook for me.

S - Maybe I shall.

A - I do not want You to but if You do then...

Actually, I did eat once. I promised to do an extra fast on Saturday. Typed and then busy shopping and visiting. 9pm

A - I do not use You as a doormat Baba.

S - No but sometimes you take advantage of My good nature.

A - When?

- S - Asking to do as you please when you know I'll not deny you as per your sleeping in every morning.
- A - Sorry. Can we start a fresh please?
- S - No - carry on where we left off.
- A - That's even better. Now where were we.
- S - As far as I can recall.....You were massaging My feet.
- A - Ah yes!

22nd April Thursday

Baba stayed in bed. Quite content and happy though. I honored my promise and continued to work on the book till morning. Baba awoke at lunch or rather I insisted He get up as lunch was ready. I personally fed Him. Then I availed myself of a short nap and commenced work on the book at 2pm. Baba silently observed. At 3.30pm I stopped and decided to watch a video. We both enjoyed Christmas at Prasanthi 1992. I asked why the silence and Baba replied that words were unnecessary. My mother's guru telephoned to confirm that He would be visiting for a fortnight from the 5th of May.

- A - Baba You're very quiet?
- S - That is because the onus is on you and besides You did not even note yesterday's conversation regarding this point.
- A - Sorry Baba. I did not think it important.
- S - Not important? The weekend was of My designing but look at the week. You do not try very hard to be with Me.
- A - That is not fair. I do. Only I thought You were annoyed with me.
- S - I've explained that to you and even so today You have not really attempted to be close.
- A - Okay, okay - from now on I'm not going to give You a moments peace, then You'll see.
- S - I won't 'see' I'll be delighted.
- A - That's what You say but what if I keep You awake all night.
- S - No danger of that. You would never be able to stay awake.
- A - Not now but wait till I come to Prashanti then I'll sit up all night outside Your window. Then You will regret it.
- S - (Smiles) What if I keep you awake?
- A - I'll not complain in fact I might even enjoy Your company. Are You proposing to?
- S - Maybe.
- A - You're welcome to. Baba I shall be busy with the meeting soon so forgive me. We will talk afterwards.
- S - Why not during the meeting?
- A - Do You wish to take part?
- S - Yes.
- A - Please do. I'd love Your suggestions and comments. I'm sure they will prove useful.
- S - Radhika you must acquire the ability to be at one with Me whilst being otherwise engaged. Do not ever set Me aside.
- A - You are right. I suppose I have been doing that lately.
- Later after the meeting.
- S - You did it again!
- A - I called You but You did not respond.

At the meeting someone had suggested repeating one name of God rather than doing 108 or 1008 names.

- A - Baba, shall I? It would mean that I will not have to read the names and so I could concentrate on the feeling and on visualising You.
- S - You have been engaged in doing one sadhana for many years and it is bearing fruit. One should not make changes in ones sadhana according to what may seem right and one's whims and fancies. Such sadhana cannot give the desired result.
- A - No matter what the sadhana does the fruit of one thing carries on to the next?
- S - Yes. Only if one is a very high soul and almost fully enlightened are completely realised. Then there can be no harm as in the case of Ramakrishna Paramhansa who practiced many types of sadhana to realise God in all His different forms. But in the case of an ordinary sadhak it is detrimental rather than beneficial.
- A - Why?
- S - Because ordinary sadhaks like yourself are unsteady of mind and character. You are blown hither and thither by your predilections and therefore any change in sadhana almost certainly means a new start. It is like digging different wells. Which is why one form of God is recommended initially even though all forms are essentially one.
- A - I see. So, I suppose I should continue as I have been.
- S - It is advisable.

23rd April Friday

I had been busy in the morning arranging for guests. I tried to speak to Baba, but He did not answer.

- S - Radhika it is not necessary to speak always. Just being with Me, that is what you must remember. Obviously, we cannot be talking all day.
- A - Oh. Why did You spill the tea on Your clothes? (I have a moorthi and I offer Baba breakfast every day.)
- S - I tried to tell you I wished to wear the sari today - you would not heed My words and so I had to resort to those measures so that you were forced to change the clothes.
- A - Do You like wearing a sari?
- S - Of course. I am Shiv Shakti avatar and besides God is neither male nor female and so has no preferences. Today you will be worshipping My Shakti aspect and so I thought I would dress accordingly.
- A - Well I think You look adorable in a sari.
- S - I am rather attractive, am I not? I make a beautiful woman.
- A - So modest too.
- S - I am devoid of pride and ego and so modesty is My nature.
- A - I was being cynical.
- S - I know but your comment was unwarranted.
- A - Sorry. Baba with mothers guru coming our room goes again. Do You mind?
- S - Why should I? All rooms are the same for Me.
- A - But we cannot be alone.

- S - Again? We are always alone Radhika - in the heart there is just You and I. Even whilst engaged in worldly affairs there should be just you and Me. All else is of no consequence.
- A - How can You say that? The world is very real, and I have to act and move in it.
- S - Yes but do not involve your mind and more especially your heart.
- A - Tell me how. You teach me yourself.
- S - Alright I will. Half the answer lies in love - as we were at the weekend.
- A - What is the other half?
- S - Effort, mind control.
- A - Baba why is it easier for You to do than for me?
- S - What a child you are. All things are within My power, and it is natural to Me.
- A - Baba if You were human and could not recollect Your divine status would You fall prey to human vices as we do?
- S - Yes. I would, should I incarnate as most souls do.
- A - Then that means we are not really at fault, are we? Because we are governed by circumstance and environment not to mention the habits and character formed through many lives.
- S - Mankind's only failing is that he allows himself to be swayed by the whims of fortune.
- A - How can he help it?
- S - By taking refuge in Me.
- A - I see. And for that he has a choice.
- S - Yes. Now do you understand that everything can be overcome with the one answer, faith in God.
- A - Hmmm.

Later in the evening I carried out formal worship but before I could finish His aarti Baba interrupted.

- A - Baba, You know what I would like? To come for Your birthday and actually see You wearing the robe I have made for You.
- S - What if I pay you a visit on the day instead.
- A - Only shakshatkar would be acceptable.
- S - Agreed. That is not the only time I intend wearing it Radhika. I shall use it on every possible occasion.
- A - May I make You some more?
- S - After all you have stitched are you still not satisfied?
- A - How could I be, please!
- S - Yes, only this time make them the right size. I will give you one as a pattern.
- A - And a dhoti?
- S - And a dhoti.
- A - Baba do You ever feel lonely?
- S - Almost always Radhika. I have very few friends and close companions.
- A - Poor Baba. Do You approve of our play?
- S - Yes. It is very beautiful.
- A - May we perform in the poornachandra for You?
- S - Will you play the part of Radha?
- A - No Baba. We have already chosen her.
- S - Then no. If you play Radha, then you may.
- A - Baba that's not fair. I am neither the build nor have the beauty to be Radha.

S - Who told you Radha was beautiful?

A - All the films and pictures. All forms of God are beautiful.

S - Not true. Beauty is the love you feel for God. You will be just right for Radha.

A - No Baba. The girl chosen wants to play the part. It would not be fair and besides I cannot dance.

S - I'll teach you. I want you to dance for Me.

A - What about my family? They would find it hilarious.

S - They do not concern us.

A - You cannot be saying this to me. This time it really is my imagination. Baba You will have to prove this to me concretely before I agree. How will You do it?

S - Wait and see.

A - You are fooling Baba; I am no Radha.

S - No? You may wear your lenga Radhika and dance for me.

A - What about size? I'm one size too large to be Radha.

S - I'll be the judge of that. Besides you are losing weight are you not?

A - Not yet - not without your help. Tell You what, if in one stroke You can help get down to 7 stone 7 in two weeks I'll do it for You.

S - Done. And I'll confirm in another way also.

A - Baba You are crazy. You have most definitely lost Your mind.

S - Not so. Only Radhika should play Radha.

A - You are mad.

S - Much like you, is it not? Besides your friend can do the narration. Her voice is perfect for it. You said so yourself.

A - Baba this is the most absurd suggestion I have heard in years.

S - And you are the most obstinate person I have come across in years.

A - Not so. Remember Kamal.

S - You and her, one of a kind. I do not know why I bother.

A - You love us?

(smiles)

A - Can't be done, just cannot be done by the 7th of May. I will be eating normally You know.

S - It will be done. You see.

A - You truly mean that if I play the part of Radha You will grant permission for the children to perform.

S - Guaranteed.

A - How could I be so selfish as to destroy their dream because of my own feeling of right and wrong? Baba deal done. You keep Your end of the bargain, and I will do it. But You will have to teach me to dance.

S - It will come naturally to you at the time.

A - Baba assuming that this is all real then how do You propose that my friend be informed of Your request?

S - I will take care of that. The part will be offered to you. All you need do is accept.

A - That will take a miracle to happen. And I cannot wait to see it.

S - It will soon. Your faith in my words is yet weak.

A - Well, if You present ludicrous suggestions how can I possibly take them seriously?

S - What is so ludicrous in your playing Radha?

A - If You cannot see then what can I say?

24th April Saturday

Have been close with Baba all morning and as I worked yesterday's conversation resounded in my mind. Impossible to credit its validity. Baba has been making occasional remarks to enforce His point of view. But personally, I feel it is an error of judgement. After practice.

- A - Baba.
S - Yes.
A - What did You occupy yourself with this afternoon?
S - I watched the practice. It is coming along fine.
A - Glad You approve. About what You said yesterday. Are You still of the same mind?
S - Do I ever change My mind without reason?
A - No.
S - So it is the same.
A - Baba I cannot do it. My friend is so keen on it Baba. Please, please allow her to do it and still let the children perform, please?
S - No.
A - Baba how can You be so stubborn?
S - For whom are you performing? Why all this preparation?
A - For You, to please You, make You happy.
S - Yet you refuse to carry out My wishes. All this is for My pleasure is it not?
A - Baba it would break her heart. She loves You just as I do.
S - No she does not - not quite. I know the type and depth of devotion each has for Me and I know that hers is not the same as yours.
A - So You know that, but can You not accept it?
S - Not in this instance. Can you not understand I want YOU to play the part for ME.
A - I could do that another time for You Baba.
S - What when you are sixty? The opportunity may never arise again.
A - If it is Your will, it definitely will.
S - Sometimes even that cannot be. Your circumstances in life may be such that it would be inappropriate for you to play that particular part. Of course if you have no regard for My feelings then do as you please.
A - No Baba. I will heed Your wishes. After all that is why we are coming, to please You, to make You laugh. But the conditions remain the same.
S - I will take care of those. By the way do I ever impose conditions upon you as you nearly always do to Me?
A - Not normally only for interviews. You then insist on certain behaviour.
S - That is not for interviews but for your own good.
A - I'm a sore trial to You, am I not?
S - No more than anyone else.

I telephoned my friend to enquire as to how she views Baba as regards her devotion towards Him. She had guests and will tell me tomorrow.

- S - You should not have told her we were discussing her.
A - Sorry but I did not wish to lie, and she asked me.
S - Alright.
A - Shall we do the corrections?

- S - Yes.
 A - Don't You want to be with me?
 S - Yes but the work also needs completing
 A - Lets do both - I'll try hard.

Whilst reading a dream in which Baba informed me 'As the devotee's devotion so God responds'.

- S - And that is precisely why you should play Radha and not your friend. She loves me as father figure yet and not as the gopis did. So how can she play Radha?
 A - Baba I am positive her devotion is very strong - much more so than mine.
 S - Granted but of a different strain at the moment Radhika. Why can you not understand? Radha's love was sweet, madhura she considered Krishna her beloved. Now do you, see?
 A - Baba I do realise that, but I fail to see that it makes any difference. You know it, I know it - no one else and so?
 S - It makes a very great difference to me Radhika. The whole purpose of the play is your love is evident, and flows towards Me, is it not? That is what you expect of the main characters, is it not? Well, when she sees Me she is fearful and tongue tied, not like you at all.
 A - Alright subject closed.

25th April Sunday

- A - Baba?
 S - Yes Radhika. Have you finished all the cleaning?
 A - Yes there is just the washing left. Baba what I wanted to say was I agreed to Your proposal but for all the wrong reasons, have I not.
 S - If you say so.
 A - You do not make it easier, do You? What I mean is I have been considering it this morning and I have decided that I would love to do it for Your delight and joy and not just because You have asked me to. I would like to see the smile on Your face my dearest. Hopefully I'll remember to look whilst on stage. I apologise for being so obstinate.
 S - Accepted. If you miss it, I'll smile just for you when you do look - remember that when you see Me smile.
 A - Thank you. You're amazing Baba. No rancor, no annoyance?
 S - Why should I have? You were giving priority to others which is correct and now you are placing Me above them which is as it should be.
 A - How can You be so calm?
 S - Perhaps because I knew that your heart was in the right place, as they say.
 A - Baba these books You are writing through me they will represent the different stages of spiritual development, will they not?
 S - Yes Radhika. The first one was the translations and that was only because I wished to whet your appetite for shakshatkar darshans and to reveal that such things are possible. The second concerns you're yearning and longing for the divine and the grace bestowed upon you in dreams and other ways. The third book which you are now engaged in writing relates the actual experiences of Baba in

the heart. The rapture of and love of playing with and being companion to God.

- A - What about the fourth and fifth books? There will be five, will there not? Just as the shastri said.
- S - Yes there will be five in all. The fourth will be about the shakshatkar darshans, I WILL COME TO YOU IN PERSON. As did Kamal you will make note of all the incidents and the spiritual teachings, I will impart to you then. The fifth book will be the final culmination of your sadhana it will tell of the coming of sudden illumination and also the consequences of it. The ability to view all forms as God, knowledge of the future, all this will be revealed to you.
- A - Why me?
- S - Because you had the desire to write books and due to the fact that these things lie in your future. As I have explained to you before all the books written elucidate some path or other to God - Yours will be one of loving God.
- A - When will they be written?
- S - Over the years as you have the experience.
- A - I'm overwhelmed by Your attention.
- S - No need to be. Nothing is given unless one earns it, and spiritual knowledge is the most difficult to attain. The requirement is sadhana. No sadhana, no grace.

Later reflecting on the fact that Baba's proposal for me had not yet written as promised.

- A - I wonder if he still wishes to marry me.
- S - Of course. He cannot do otherwise.
- A - Life will be difficult catering for a husband and two children.
- S - It will not be so. I will ensure that everything is smooth.
- A - Study class today, will You take it for me?

My friend informed me that previously she was used to think of Baba as a friend and confident/father but only very recently she thought of herself as Radha. I was dumb founded. How could this be true?

- A - Well Baba?
- S - Well what?
- A - Baba You heard what was said. What is the truth?
- S - Answer Me this first how long did your relationship with Me take to reach the conclusion it has?
- A - Eight years. I thought I loved You dearly since 1987 but the intervening time was necessary also.
- S - But even then, You were fearful of Me at times.
- A - Yes.
- S - Where there is fear there cannot be love - love transcends fear, shyness etc. Could you honestly say that overnight this relationship was formed without any misgivings? In spite of all the encouragement I gave you?
- A - No.
- S - Then at present what I say is the truth. The love is not complete until there is no distinction between lover and loved - no curtain - no veil at all. Total at onement.

- A - I see then You are correct because at times even we cannot be sure of how we feel.
- S - Yes, you may believe that you have certain feelings but until they are tested and proved they cannot be accepted.
- A - Then what about her suggestion that only children should take part in the play?
- S - That I will accept. However, if a guru is to play the part, then it must be you. Leave it to Me and see what happens.
- A - Alright. Baba my sadhana is not what it was. Please show me where I am going wrong?
- S - I will tonight.
- A - Now please.
- S - You are not spending all your time with Me and that is the greatest error as all other faults arise from lack of this. You are taking an interest in television, the annoyance is returning slowly, when you are crossed. Your ego is making an appearance also as you think you are organising this trip. And all this stems from your distance from Me.
- A - Please correct me Baba. There is still a doubt regarding this devotion of my friend. Will You confirm with a dream tonight.

26th April Monday

Baba refused to come however all day He has been reiterating the message 'Trust Me'. He refuses to encourage my dependency on dreams. The travel agent has intimated that full payment now may be necessary as the same airline has been inundated with enquiries (ours through other agents). So today my mind is hardly at peace. I am repeatedly attempting to 'Let go and Let God' and trust Him but it is proving a sore trial. I have been with Him, but our conversations are repeats of the above. I also failed in keeping my word to remain awake this morning as I awoke at 2am and was unable to sleep again. Nevertheless, I managed to catch up with my work before I left home for the office.

- A - Baba I cannot help worrying about the ticket arrangements. He may need the money now.
- S - Radhika leave it to Me. How many times have I told you that worry accomplishes nothing.
- A - What about him, he has not written either?
- S - That too is my responsibility.
- A - And my friend.
- S - Why must you doubt what I say always? Who is more knowledgeable Myself or her? Besides until God accepts the devotion as such it cannot be so, have you not thought of that? I know exactly what the situation is.
- A - It is not that I doubt you but I doubt myself. I think perhaps I am making this up.
- S - You cannot.
- A - Some days worry piles up and up.
- S - If you allow it to, only then. Look tomorrow it will all be resolved.
- A - I hope so.
- Evening, I was massaging Baba's forehead.
- S - Radhika why so quiet?
- A - Anxious Baba even though I try not to be. The travel arrangements, so great a responsibility.
- S - They are mine. Come here, sit. It is all My will, is it not?

- A - I know but I wish things to be perfect Baba.
 S - They will be.
 A - My friend?
 S - That again? Radhika one day I'll prove it to you. Leave it to Me. I do not want to see You so sad.
 A - How can I believe Your words when they appear incorrect?
 S - Have you ever considered that it is for this very purpose of examining your faith that I may say something that seems untrue?
 A - Yes it has Baba, but my view is that You should not do this, if it is deliberate.
 S - Do I not have the right to test the strength of your devotion and belief? Without a test how can I ascertain the depth of your faith in My words? You say you love Me. But how much? Others repeat it parrot fashion and yet at the first sign of trouble they walk away from Me. So also, I give you many proofs of My presence with you and yet at the slightest doubt You see Me as in the wrong. Do you recall that I once mentioned that faith should be as strong as Arjuna's when Krishna called the bird a dove, an eagle etc and still Arjuna placed complete faith in the Lord's word rather than in his own vision.
 A - I suppose You are right. Baba why do You remain with me? I am totally unworthy of Your grace.
 S - (smiles) Love is the answer.
 A - Then how can You love one such as I who doubts You so much?
 S - Because you are My child - come to Me again after thousands of years and I cannot let you fall back into the maya of worldly attractions. Besides You do not doubt Me. It is My presence with you, which is new to you, that causes this conflict.
 A - Why do You care so much for all of us?
 S - It is My nature, Radhika. This is all My creation, My responsibility, My duty. If I do not do so, then to whom can beings turn?
 A - I pray You to grant me the faith that would withstand all examinations but more importantly love for You that would deny all else but You.
 S - It shall be in time.

27th April Tuesday

I utilised most of the day working on the book and so was too busy to converse with Him. Ruminating on my previous experiences I, myself am amazed and delighted at the way in which our relationship of love formed by itself in the early years. Finally, I called a halt to the work due to eye strain. So, we went for a walk on the beach and sat watching the waves beating against the shore. In my heart of course. Everything there is as real as life.

28th April Wednesday

I went to tidy up to find Baba still in bed.

- A - Not up yet?
 S - No. I'll stay and rest awhile.
 A - Fine. I'll clean up as it has not been properly done for days thanks to your objections.
 I had almost finished with the washing and ironing yet to be done.
 S - Come here Radhika.
 A - I'm busy Baba, later.

S - No, now.
A - Yes, what is it?
S - Closer I wish to speak to you.
All He said was absolute nonsense, but I listened intently until finally.
A - Baba I'm worried about the tickets as some people cannot afford to pay now and the agent is now asking for it instead of waiting as agreed.
S - It has all been resolved yesterday.
A - How? I have not heard from him yet.
S - You will today.
A - I love You so. Shall we go shopping this afternoon for some fancy clothes?
S - No because you will not pay the least attention to Me. As soon as you are with others you forget Me.
A - Promise I won't. I'll ask Your advice.
S - Alright providing you buy only what I choose.
A - Of course. Baba I am anxious about the children. They do not behave very well at all. How can we possibly cope at Prasanthi? I do not wish to ruin my sadhana by becoming annoyed with them for it will defeat the whole purpose of coming.
S - They will change once in the Ashram.
A - Are You sure?
S - Yes.
A - Then it is Your responsibility to make them better. I am tired of telling them to behave. What would You like to eat today? Your choice.
S - Hmm, what is there?
A - Anything You like.
S - Then I'll have the green beans. You cook them for Me.
A - Right.

I did and we enjoyed them. Shopping was not what I intended as we ended up shopping for a ring and saris. And yes, I did forget to consult Him. The travel situation resolved itself. He rang me with a reasonable alternative. However, the tension was great with the result that I lost my temper for the first time in almost two months. I do believe He is putting into practice His promise to carry out all tests here itself.

A - Baba I'm sorry I was annoyed.
S - And so you should be.
A - Thanks for sorting out the tickets.
S - It is not quite over yet.
A - I know but please You take care of it all. Now to us, did You like the sari's I have brought?
S - For Me?
A - No, for me.
S - Very nice. Can I have one?
A - Baba You do not wear them so stop asking silly questions.
S - Who says I don't?
A - Baba if You wish You may wear mine, the new ones. I have plenty for both of us. Fine reputation I'll have if anyone discovers I buy You saris.
S - What about My reputation when I have to do the unimaginable for your sake?
A - You never have done. When?

S - I shouldered the blame for your marriage.
A - Baba that was because You arranged it.
S - Not Me, your karma and other insurmountable obstacles.
A - Same thing.
S - You are not very fair, are you Radhika?
A - I'm sorry.
S - To you that comes so easily. Do you ever mean it?
A - Of course. Why should I say it otherwise.
S - Just.
A - No, I mean it My beloved little Baba.
S - What do you want?
A - Nothing. Why?
S - That tone of sweetness always means you want something.
A - Well I do not. How can You be so, so.....
S - Is it My turn to apologise?
A - I should think so.
S - I shall appropriately. I'll give You something.
A - What?
S - A surprise. Would you like that?
A - Who would not?
S - Then why were you annoyed with your sister today. All she asked for was a surprise birthday gift.
A - Baba I have already apologised for that. I suppose it was just too much tension with the travel arrangements. Anyway, I have brought her a present.
S - You should not have responded as you did Radhika. If you expect a surprise from Me and I replied so, would you not be hurt?
A - Yes.
S - Then? Do not hurt others. Each one has their own particular preferences. Respect all for what they are. I look to yours no matter how absurd, do I not?
A - Yes Baba.
S - Do not be so downcast. See it as a lesson learned.
A - Yes but must You pose such difficult obstacles for me?
S - Without them progress cannot be determined.
A - Baba are You tired of me?
S - No Radhika I would never be that, not for eternity. Listen, forget it now. Wait for My surprise then when you are happy remember to give that same joy to others.
A - I promise. Why the surprise for me?
S - Because I wish it so.
A - But You have already given me a birthday ticket.
S - Radhika remember I promised to give you everything I have in dreams. That is only the first there are many more to come. Look at your list, how many items are there?
A - So far twenty more and I have not yet reached the end of making the list.
S - Then I will choose one of them to give you.
A - Which?
S - You guess.
A - I cannot, which?
S - Then wait and see.
A - Huh.
S - See how exciting it is?

- A - Baba the point has been made.
 S - Just making sure. Next time you could pain someone badly if you fail to understand that each person and their idea of happiness is different.
 A - Thank You Baba shall we...
 S - Yes.
 A - I wonder what people will make of that.
 S - Who cares.

29th April Thursday

Very strange dream about climbing some stairs and some women predicting the future. Something about my marriage and two deaths in the family. Baba has been very close, kind and loving today. However, we did not cover any important issues.

- A - Baba some days You just never talk to me.
 S - Somedays you just never make the effort to come and be with Me.
 A - I said it first. What's Your excuse?
 S - Radhika in a relationship one need not use the spoken word always. You were with Me this morning until lunch time, yes? Was that not enough?
 A - Of course. It means a great deal to me, but I enjoy speaking with You also.
 S - Alright I'll make a point of saying something of value every day.
 A - Thank You.
 S - Now you answer My question.
 A - No excuse Baba I failed but the reason is I came to have a look at You but since there seemed to be nothing, I could say at the time I went back to my world.
 S - Radhika the onus is on you. You can initiate a discussion, can you not? Also, it is for you to take Me back to your world with you so that we are not separated. There should not be two worlds but one - ours.
 A - Baba why is it that when You first came to me like this it was so easy to be with You all day but not now.
 S - Simple, familiarity breeds contempt. Now you know that I am always here waiting for you you can afford to leave Me. When I first came you were unsure of My presence being always available and it was a novelty, which is not the case now.
 A - And the solution to this problem?
 S - You must understand that this is a stage in spiritual development and not the culmination of it. There is much more to be covered and overcome. If you fail in this, how can you succeed in your aim? Keep this in mind and see it as a sadhana you must practice. Just as you expect the children in your class to follow the sadhana chart so you must follow the one I have laid out for you.
 A - How long for?
 S - As long as it takes to become perfect so you can move on to the next step.

30th April Friday

- A - Baba

- S - Yes Radhika
 A - Thank you for sorting out the terms and the parents' acceptance of them.
 S - I told you not to worry, did I not? I shall be here to solve all problems including him. What I will, must be. Live in that faith.
 A - Yes. I'm having my hair permed today. You approve?
 S - I was beginning to wonder when you were going to inform Me. Should you not have asked before this? It is expensive Radhika. Practice ceiling on desires more strictly.
 A - I will in future. I had my doubts Baba, but I could not be bothered to find someone cheaper in case they were no good.
 S - I'll find someone for you next time.

Later at the hairdressers it took ages, and the service was definitely biased, for the first time I might add.

- A - Point taken Baba I'll find another one.
 S - I tried to tell you all week, but you turned a deaf ear to My voice.
 A - I thought it was just me.
 S - Liar you knew but were too lazy to act on it.
 A - You never miss a trick.
 S - Never.
 A - That's the problem having a love who is too clever by half. One always Get found out.
 S - You should not be practicing deceit in the first place, should you?
 A - No but.....
 S - No but's if you are to live your life by dharma then truth is a necessity.
 A - Lesson assimilated. Are You quite sure You would prefer crackers instead of baked potato for lunch?
 S - Quite sure. Remember we are not to eat anything from outside.
 A - I know but there is no harm in a potato.
 S - There is in the toppings.
 A - Right crackers it is. You are a hard task master.
 S - Needs must Radhika otherwise it is you who would fail spiritually.
 A - Baba where do new souls come from?
 S - There is no such thing as 'new souls'. When I created the universe, every atom was endowed with that magical spark 'a soul'. Evolution and evolvement leads to them working up from a single celled entity to the human form. Think of how many atoms in the milky way? Impossible to calculate, is it not? Now do you understand.
 A - I had never thought of it that way. I imagined souls to be the property of human and animal life forms only and that is why I asked You.
 S - The answers to the secrets of God and the universe are essentially quite simple. That is why purity and innocence are a necessity to comprehend them. Humans think that it must be some complicated formula which is why they fail to unravel the mysteries of Me and My creation.
 A - How clever of You to wrap Your secrets in simplicity.
 S - God is innocence and simplicity personified Radhika, it is My nature. Also, it is precisely why in the spiritual field cunning and knowledge are a handicap rather than being useful.

- A - Baba I intend telling my friend's mother that if she allows them to come on the trip then You will have to arrange their marriages by this time next year. Is it right of me to do so? And will YOU?
- S - Radhika it is not correct to impose conditions on God. But should you do so then I suppose I'll have to comply.
- A - Brilliant. I knew You would. Sorry we were interrupted this afternoon. Baba all day I have felt restless due to a longing to be with You. And You have not come in dream this week yet.
- S - You noticed.
- A - Of course I noticed. They are not essential now, but I still look forward to them.
- S - I had hoped you would forget.
- A - Not yet, perhaps in a few months' time.

Later at 7.30pm I'd been feeling lost and alone.

- A - I know what it is. I miss You Baba.
- S - How can you? I am here with you.
- A - It is not that, an emptiness inside. I need to be with You in person either here or at Prasanthi. I had been curious as to why I still occasionally felt listless and depressed. Usually at such times I eat to cover up the spiritual hunger for Your actual presence but now I know what causes it.
- S - How can you be sure?
- A - Believe me I know, it's like I used to feel when You would not come in my dreams.
- S - Can it not be that you are unhappy about something else?
- A - You know that is not true. I am planning a trip to You. I have You with me all day, there are no major problems in my life, no work conflicts so what can it be but this desire for Your physical presence. Admit it Baba.
- S - I had been waiting to see how long it would take you to realise that even these times together in the heart are insufficient. So now you know. Much sooner than I thought.
- A - But what is the answer?
- S - What was it before?
- A - There was not one for long time. I suffered until Your grace was showered on me this year.
- S - Then Radhika yearn, long and wait until you are ready to receive what you so desire. Do not allow anything to deter you in your resolve to reach your goal.
- A - Baba more suffering, again?
- S - Radhika only through this suffering is purity attained - purity enough to love and attract God. Think positively, at least now you will never have pain physically or materially only internally. I promise it will not be long.
- A - Won't You at least grant me something to take away the pain sometimes?
- S - Yes. I will come in other ways, forms for a while for you. Now adhere to this path more and more so that you become worthy quickly.

1st May Saturday

Another month and another day. Time flies by and I am no nearer my goal which appears as distant as ever.

S - Actually it is closer than you think. The nearer you go towards it the further it seems.
 A - I thought You would not speak to me as I have been otherwise engaged all morning. Am I truly closer to You?
 S - What do you expect Me to say?
 A - Agree with me but only if it is the truth.
 S - You know it is Radhika.
 A - Baba shall we go to bhajans today?
 S - Do you have the desire to do so?
 A - No. I no longer feel a need for them. I have You.
 S - They are good for you, go.
 A - Alright.

Later.....

A - I took paper and pen, and You kept silent?
 S - So that you could enjoy the bhajans.
 A - Thanks a million. Where is my surprise?
 S - You must wait.

As I had forty winks, I dreamt that we were at the Eswaramma Day celebrations and we were given Baba's bhajan cassettes.

2nd May Sunday

All morning, I have been otherwise occupied with housework or the book, so much so that I have not had time to visit Baba even and I could feel the tension rising. Every time I peep within, I can feel His annoyance with me. During bal vikas prayers guilt swept through me.

A - Baba please don't be angry I was only trying to catch up with the work and the book.
 S - Not entirely true.
 A - Baba please...
 S - Radhika you are not even trying and I'm losing My patience with you.
 A - I promise I'll try much harder only please help me.
 S - No. First you make a real effort only then will I help.
 A - Right, from this very instance I am not going to be parted from you for a second.
 S - Excellent resolve. Let's see how long it lasts!

Later...

A - Why do I feel so tense with the children. They are so naughty.
 S - Loss of contact with Me.
 We were listening to a speech by Issac Tigrett.

A - Baba I want that too.
 S - You cannot. Your path is different. Love is your power of use and not meditation. The power of love has exactly the same effect.
 A - How?
 S - By loving, inspiring love for God in others, loving Me, all are 'good thoughts.' They dissolve negative thoughts.

I exiled a child from our group (the bal vikas group for India) and his mother complained.

A - Have I done the right thing Baba? He is so disruptive and naughty.

S - Why ask Me now? Go and ask other friends. Can they ease your mind?

A - No. You were annoyed this morning and so I felt....

S - That is no excuse.

A - Okay forgive me please. Did I Baba?

S - Yes you did. Leave him a while. Let him prove he is worthy of being in the group. In fact, it may well be wise to make all five boys exiles until they behave.

A - Thank God for that.

S - It is a more practical solution than being constantly disquieted by having to reprimand them always.

A - Thank you. Now please give me peace of mind.

S - Come lay your head on my lap and I'll massage the tenseness away.

A - No it is for me to serve You and not You me.

S - I am in all. I serve all. I am only serving Myself. Do not be silly.

A - Dear sweet Baba You are much, much more than I deserve.

“The desire to know God, love
God and be loved by God
is not a desire that binds.”

-Sri Sathya Sai Baba-

Chapter 6 Depression

3rd May Monday

Eswaramma Day. Very mixed emotions as I felt our efforts were considerably less than the performances by other centers. However, He knew and ensured that our play was not only well received but was even complimented. I caught a cold and was very dispirited. Baba did not come as promised and I was extremely annoyed with Him and so refused to speak with Him anymore, to my cost I might add. Later I chided Baba on His broken word. But as usual He had a list of reasons cum excuses. Firstly, He had not said specifically which year He would come and further our own play expounded the message of 'God resident in all' and therefore He was 'present'. On my deriding that as nonsense He went on to say that He was present in the last performance which was a dissertation on the history of the ten incarnations of God. In addition, my words at the time conveyed a doubt for I said 'even if you do not come' which was why He did not come.

4th May Tuesday

Spent the day in bed with temperature and flu. No time to visit Baba.

5th May Wednesday

Riddled with guilt as from past conversations with Baba I suddenly realised that He too suffered from exactly the same symptoms, and I did nothing to alleviate them. So, all contrition, I went to see Him, but He refused to speak to me. His distance merely enforces the fact that broken promise or not I can never leave Him so what is the point in complaining or arguing. Once again travel hiccups but this time I resigned my will to His and immediately one telephone call solved the whole dilemma.

6th May Thursday

Tired, lethargic I am disinclined to work on the book in spite of a nagging murmur in my mind from Him. I have decided to recheck next week to try and see it from a reader's point of view. After many days I cleaned up Baba's apartment in my heart. Baba was awake awaiting breakfast. I regretted my hasty action in refusing to communicate with Him on Monday and now vowed never to do so again.

A - Baba why didn't You come on Monday?

S - I was there.

A - But not as You promised.

S - Recall your own words 'Even if You do not come'. That doubt clashed with My will. Remember what I have previously explained about God's will being slowed down or speeded up according to the strength of your faith.

A - I see. Had I not entertained that thought...

S - Then your wish would have been fulfilled.

A - The power of thought!

S - Precisely.

A - Very powerful indeed.

- S - To an extent which even yet you fail to comprehend. Your pure, noble and loving thoughts can create the same miracles My will can.
- A - Baba are You angry with me for not speaking with You?
- S - No. Until such time as ignorance is dispelled how can I take offence? Only when full knowledge is present, and the act or error is deliberately undertaken does it annoy Me. Even then My anger is merely a corrective measure as, within I am unaffected.

7th May Friday

I woke up very late at 6am. Failed to understand how I managed to oversleep and miss the alarm. So, I decided to tidy up Baba's apartment. Surprised to find Him awake.

- S - Radhika what are you doing?
- A - Tidying up early. Besides it's Friday and I have to change the sheets and vacuum.
- S - Do it later. Come sit here with Me. Why are you so distant from Me?
- A - I'm not Baba. I thought You were annoyed with me for not working on the book all week.
- S - No Radhika. Obviously, I sympathize with your predicament. It is you yourself who posits this barrier between us. Your own belief of how I am governs My response to you. So, you alone are the cause of this curtain between us. I love you as before.
- A - But Baba I do so also - in fact even more so.
- S - Yes but you allowed your own feelings of guilt to affect our relationship. Though how you could is beyond Me. Am I so terrible a taskmaster that I would insist on your working whilst ill?
- A - I did not think of it so Baba. All that concerned me was that I had failed in keeping my promise to you of working on it every morning.
- S - But the circumstances were beyond your control.
- A - I know, even so....
- S - Take this lesson to heart My dearest and never ever allow such considerations to come between us again. Recognise the vital role that thoughts and your belief plays and so refrain from raising these barriers which separate us especially when you come in August. Always remember, come what may, regardless of the behavior of others, be like v..... immerse yourself in love of Me and live with Me.
- A - Yes Baba. Am I happy now? I have been so listless due to our separation.
- S - Caused by you.
- A - I realise that now. Baba I love You.
- S - (Smiles) And I love You also.
- A - Please...
- S - I did so at bhajans last night
- A - Yes but You forgot to drop that flower for me and so I thought it was my imagination
- S - Listen Radhika. First you asked for a flower and then for me to drop one for you. Do not multiply your desires unnecessarily. I kept the bouquet especially for you. One sign is enough.
- A - Baba I will never understand You even after a million years.
- S - I know.
- A - Now may I vacuum and wash?

S - Yes but remember to return to Me and stay all day.
A - Yes Sir.

Later 4.30pm

A - Baba thank you for sorting out the errant child and parent. And I had thought that perhaps those words of Yours last week were merely my own consolation to myself.
S - How could you believe that after all I have proved to you?
A - (Smile). Baba my surprise?
S - Wait Radhika wait.
A - But it has already been a week.
S - So...
A - Oh Alright. I wonder what it will be.
S - Something very special for a very special person.
A - Me?
S - Yes you.

Much later after speaking to a fellow teacher about some recent things Baba had said to me.

A - Did You mind my speaking about us?
S - No Radhika, it was My wish you do so and that is why you did it.
A - Baba recalling all those wonderful times when You accepted the meals, I prepared for You and the robes - it makes me feel so blessed.
S - You are and will be so even more.

8th May Saturday

Dreamt of a mandir and photographs of Baba and also, I tried to set fire to a building. Indicates lack of temper control. I could not bring myself to go and see Baba today. My heart is breaking, and I feel distraught. I want His darshan NOW. Finally, at 1pm

A - Baba.
S - Yes Radhika, I have been waiting for you all morning.
A - I know Baba, but I feel so sad. Please give shakshatkar darshan now.
S - Good, good, yearn more and more. Your love reaches me Radhika and I am very happy.
A - Well I suppose that at least is some consolation, if You are happy.
S - Radhika, Radhika always so angry with Me?
A - Not with You Baba, never with You.
S - What about every visit and then all the in between times
A - Baba that is not being angry that is only love in another form. Besides You deliberately set out to annoy me, do You not?
S - It is My delight, my relief from boredom.
A - So that's why You do it?
S - No Radhika I do it because I want to experience every form of Your love for me. Love is all the sweeter afterwards.
A - How true, indeed it is.

After our first meeting for the play for India.

A - Baba I do wish You would tell me Yourself who You want to play which part.

- S - Radhika, I will guide you. Everyone you choose is My choice. Did I not say that I would work through you?
- A - But I do not know which children are truly practicing their sadhana and those whose love for You is of an exceptional nature. For I feel that it is those children who deserve to play the main roles. So please tell me yourself.
- S - I will, I will, why do you worry.
- A - Because I want it to be perfect for You. Baba the whole purpose of this is to make You happy, it is also my life's aim.
- S - I am always happy.
- A - Especially happy Baba.
- S - Why?
- A - Because I love You and when You are pleased then I am also.
- S - Radhika leave this for now.

9th May Sunday

This depression is gaining ground and despite my telling myself that I will be with Him shortly I find myself missing Him unduly. In this frame of mind, it was impossible to work and so as I slept, I dreamt of Him. Many of us were waiting for Baba to appear and finally He did. However, suddenly I could not see Him. I was blind. Though I attempted to force back my sight I failed. Then amazingly enough I had a clear vision of Baba within as He approached and said, 'Look within, see with the inner vision'. Then I saw Him walking away. An injunction to strictly practice being with Him in the heart. Yet unsatisfied I asked for more and so once again seated, awaiting His arrival. Baba came and presented me with a framed photograph of Himself.

When I went to wake Him up, He refused and insisted on sleeping in. He was served both breakfast and lunch in bed. Even so this gloom of loneliness persists. Often, I find myself shedding tears in some solitary corner.

The world is a mirror of our own selves was brought home to me starkly as the inner disruption was evident in the class and the study group. My vibrations of unhappiness made manifest the inner turmoil of some of the boys. Afterwards it was only after much soul searching as to whether I had erred in some way that Baba answered me with 'Leave the boys to Me. Do not worry. You were quite right. They are My problem'

10th May Monday.

His assurances aside I was still unable to dispel the anxiety of how to stimulate the boy's sadhana and consequently I just could not bring myself to commence work. I understand my irrationality in demanding more from Baba, at this stage, than He is prepared to give and so I've decided to follow His advice and try to 'see Him within'. I just hope it suffices, for the moment at least. I requested Baba that rather than give me a surprise He should present two girls and my brother (who all long to come) with tickets for India.

- S - Not only will they come but you will also have your surprise.
- A - Baba are You angry with me?
- S - No Radhika but do try to be content with My presence as it is. Yearn, want but do not be unhappy about it. For when you are unhappy how can I be happy?
- A - I'm sorry I had no intention of making You suffer.
- S - I know

- A - Baba what will we do with the boys?
- S - Leave them to Me. This is an inevitable stage of struggle in their progress. They cannot accept their failure yet, but they will eventually and then strive all the harder afterwards. It is far better that these matters are resolved now rather than erupt at Prasanthi. For then they will cause you and the other guru's much hurt.
- A - Baba You are so kind will You not do just one thing for me once? Give Your darshan here to me once before we go?
- S - Again the same topic? You must learn to trust My judgement, follow My instructions just as you expect the children to follow yours, then and then only will everything be yours.
- A - Alright, I do love You so.
- S - Tidy up now and we will talk afterwards.
- A - Is Your back better now that I have massaged it Baba?
- S - Yes, it's fine.

This morning, I had left Baba sleeping on the sofa and fallen asleep myself with the result that He suffered from tenseness and backache. In the evening, we went to our favorite beach.

11th May Tuesday

At last, after a whole week, I've restarted work on the book. I hope Baba is pleased.

- A - Baba the washing is still to be done from yesterday since You stopped me. What are You doing?
- S - (Smiles) Waiting for you. What shall we do today?
- A - What I would like is to be with You and love You throughout the day in one long unbroken stream. I've not been that close to You for ages.
- S - Granted, what else?
- A - Let's go for a picnic, the weather is so lovely.
- S - You pack, and we'll see.
- Being alone with Baba is an experience of its own. So close. So much love....
- S - You know there are very few persons who love Me as you do. I missed your love last week.
- A - I'm sorry. It never occurred to me that You also want me to be with You. I forgot. A human failing I'm afraid.
- S - If ever You feel sad and depressed think of the effect of your absence on Me. How lonely I am?
- A - I'll try to remember in future. But Baba if You truly feel so much then why won't You come to me as I want? Why can You not understand my feelings?
- S - I do Radhika, but some things are beyond My power even - one of these is going against the trend of your thoughts and beliefs. You yearn, have faith and wait, I will surely come.
- A - My sweet, sweet Baba. Sorry I got up late this morning. I'm so tired lately.
- S - Not surprising if you will not eat properly.
- A - I am doing it for You Baba. When we come, I want all of us to win Your grace and love to an unprecedented level.
- S - But you alone cannot do this for all the children who will not do their sadhana.

- A - I will do all that I can and then pray for Your forgiveness for them.
- S - Those children have no idea of their good fortune.
- A - I do nothing - it is Your grace and will entirely. Without it we could not be planning this trip. You alone deserve the honor and the praise.
- S - Radhika You are sweet.
- A - I am not Baba. I have so many faults, so much needs correcting within myself an overlarge ego to destroy.
- S - (Smiles) You are mine that is enough.
- A - Are You mine?
- S - Here like this, can You doubt it?
- A - (Smile) Love You.

Half an hour later I was trying to read 'When God walks the Earth'.

- S - It is not a book you should read Radhika.
- A - Why?
- S - It may lead you astray. There is no need to be aware of the why's and wherefores. Love alone is enough. With love you can win God and that is all that is necessary.
- A - For whom is the book written?
- S - For those seeking knowledge. Those who are fascinated by facts and like to analyse, deduce and conclude to their own satisfaction. The seeker who asks how and why. The lover needs to know nothing but the beloved.

We did eventually go for a walk and on return I made Baba a drink and sandwiches.

- S - Radhika make me a proper meal.
- A - I'll make it here as I am not eating.
- S - No, you make it yourself and eat also.
- A - No Baba. I have already eaten today.
- S - Radhika You will only harm yourself by the way you are carrying on. You have fasted yesterday, that is enough, eat for today at least.
- A - Baba no. Have soup or something.
- S - No, proper meal now.
- A - Now?
- S - Yes!
- A - I am only doing it to be with You.
- S - I am always with you. You may eat once if you so wish but adequately Radhika, otherwise, you will not be in any state to travel in July.
- A - I'll be alright.

Later...

- A - Baba the surprise?
- S - Soon, soon.
- A - But it has been a week and a half.
- S - I know, wait. You know the signs, it's on the way.

By signs Baba meant that vibhuti had been spilling lately. Three times in two days. So, I knew that something auspicious was on the way.

- A - Where shall we go this evening? A fair ground?
 S - Let us save that for an afternoon out.
 A - How about a drive Baba?
 S - What about a walk in the country?
 A - Right, let's go. Put some slippers on.

The remainder of the evening was spent happily together. In fact, it was so enjoyable we had no desire to return. Baba was so complimentary.

12th May Wednesday

As I reflected on the excellent progress on the book this morning and the fact that with another morning's work, I'll have it finished and can pack it away ready for His signature in August.

- S - A very good thing too. Time has run out.
 A - Why? There is nothing important coming up now, is there?
 S - You will soon be busy with him.
 A - Did You enjoy our stroll yesterday, Baba?
 S - Yes, you?
 A - Of course, we must do it more often now that the summer is here.

Later at 1pm mother herself suggested that my brother join us. It made my day, and I was on cloud nine. Neither of us could believe it true. But then Baba had promised He would make it possible.

- A - So what You said was true?
 S - Of course, it is always so.
 A - Thank You so much Baba.
 S - He deserves it. His sadhana won My grace.

The remainder of the afternoon was utilised in checking a further fifty pages. It was only at 5.30pm that I was finally free. I felt incredibly happy, full of joy.

- S - The result of My company all day whilst working on the book.
 A - What shall we do to-night?
 S - Spend a quiet evening at home.
 A - Doing what?
 S - Guess!
 A - We do that anyway.
 S - Not always.
 A - Baba every feature of Yours is so utterly captivating and I love You.
 S - You should not be enthralled by this form Radhika. God is essentially formless.
 A - I know but while You are here there is no beauty to match Yours.
 S - As I have explained before not beauty - purity, love, bliss that is what shines through.
 A - I can't wait to come to You.
 S - I am waiting for it too.
 A - Are You really?
 S - Why must you question all I say?
 A - You will make it truly superb, will You not?
 S - Need you ask?

- A - Baba this being together is like living on a paradise Island - just the two of us. I pray that it will be the same (only with a real You) at Prasanthi. Don't disappoint me like before.
- S - I would never do that Radhika. Before there were so many reasons and complications which no longer exist.
- A - You have won my heart totally - but then it is easy for You to do.
- S - And you Mine.
- A - Pardon?
- S - Well, did you not think so?
- A - It has been my dream for so long, it never occurred to me that I could do so in this lifetime.

13 May Thursday

Concluded the book. Very pleased and so is Baba, so much so He expressed it in many little ways. Finalised arrangements for the tickets. In the evening as I sat through the parent's study group, I suddenly realised how fortunate and blessed I was. Here were people, as Baba had said, who could not even conceive of the possible existence of His intimate, close, loving companionship on a daily basis. As one man explained 'I talk to Baba, but I do not expect a reply. Moksha can take millions of years, so I do not expect it now.'

As Baba had said we did not have time to be alone together today though I spoke to Him throughout the day.

- A - Baba I am so lucky to have You to solve my daily dilemmas.
- S - Glad you realise it at last.

Despite my resolution to overcome the superstition associated with the dreaded '13th' by 'power of thought'. I suppose that some residue effect could be discerned in my lack of conversation with Baba.

14th May Friday

Delighted that now both books were up to date I had a lie in. I dreamt that I was on my way to a conference in Bangalore when one of our employees queried my destination. I explained. My brother then gave me a book of Baba. I was surprised to note that it was a new one I had not read before. Just as I was leaving my brother informed me that a fax had arrived for me saying 'The book is okay, carry on' or words to that effect. My has contracted a fungus type rash. I had informed my family that they should make no attempt to read my book as Baba did not wish it. As a warning I added that should they do so they would contract something.

I do believe my had a sneak peek. In spite of medication the rash is swiftly spreading.

- A - Baba, did read it?
- S - You knowdid.
- A - Are You quite sure? I do not wish to wrongly accuse someone.
- S - Radhika do I ever lie?
- A - No, but sometimes You twist the truth.
- S - Only in matters that I have to. This is not one of those.
- A - How can be cured of it?
- S - By confessing and apologising.
- A - No other way?

- S - No.
- A - Baba I do hope You give me and the other gurus really special attention when we come. In the interview room I mean. Answer our personal questions and offer guidance in our lives.
- S - How can you ask? You will receive the most. After all, if I am to conduct your marriage then you must.
- A - I pray so my love. Baba, please forgive the boys. I know that I have told them that if they do not improve their sadhana they will not be called but I do not intend that You should carry through my words. I am merely using it as a ruse to stimulate some reaction from them.
- S - That I will see at the time. No promises.
- A - I suppose I cannot ask for more except pray for them.
- S - Yes, do that.
- A - You still in bed?
- S - Of course.
- A - Are You tired?
- S - No, relaxing. After all we have just completed a book.
- A - !!!!!
- S - Come and join Me. We will go out for the day.
- A - Some of us have work to do. If I am to attend practice tomorrow, I must finish all the housework today.
- S - Worth asking, Oh well!
- A - Besides the weather is quite dull today.
- S - I'll brighten it up for you if you come.
- A - Thank You but no. On second thoughts brighten it up for all the other people if it is not too much trouble.
- S - It is My creation; how can it be trouble?
- A - Baba You are such a gem. Last night I felt so much compassion for all those poor souls who do not - cannot understand they can have You with them like this always. They flounder in their daily decisions, wondering if they have made the correct choice, not having You to tell them directly.
- S - I did tell You all this but I do think you disbelieved Me.
- A - No, I just thought if they knew then...
- S - Radhika even if they know they are not prepared to carry out the necessary disciplines.

15th May Saturday

Yesterday became a disaster of desires. Firstly, I ate a pizza from outside salving my conscience with 'Baba will not mind'. Retribution followed swiftly as I was heartily sick a mere half hour after. Baba had enjoined me not to eat out and so He made His displeasure apparent in no uncertain terms. Never again I vowed. Also, I interfered in a family concern as I reprimanded my brother for not consulting everyone in what was a very serious matter. Nemesis dogged my heels as I myself was chastised for being 'out' too often. Fortunately, I recognised Baba's purpose and so accepted it as His will, seeing only God in the parties concerned. Thoroughly chastened I found it difficult to communicate with Him barring a few comments cum apologies. Baba is instructing me in not only His constant awareness of my actions but His views upon them by speedy reprisals. The whole affair subsided as quickly as it had risen. He utilises every opportunity to teach detachment, love and practice of the principle 'see God in all' insisting that I abide by the disciplines He has laid down for me. Having analysed and examined my guilt, accepted the consequences of my own actions, and

initiated a resolve to correct myself I hope we can continue our loving relationship where we left off. Twelve noon and I am off to the practice. Baba has so far maintained a discreet silence.

On return I planned tomorrow's lesson and sorted out finances for the trip. Just as I was going down 9pm.

- S - Don't you want to talk to Me?
A - Yes, I do.
S - So?
A - So! Baba it is You who withdrew Your company from me and not me from You.
S - I know Radhika it was necessary. You caused hurt to another with your interference yesterday.
A - I'm sorry Baba but the matter of business finances seemed so important, what if anything were to go wrong?
S - Don't you trust Me?
A - Of course I do, personally but my family do not see You in the same light.
S - Your seva, your love guarantees My guardianship for them also.
A - I had not thought of that Baba.
S - Remember it in future. Everything to do with you or connected with you in anyway is under my control, within My power.
A - Thank You Baba. Baba N.....
S - Sometimes pain cannot be avoided.
A - Baba M. shall we?
S - Wait and see a few days, see what happens.
A - Alright.
S - What about us? I have missed you.
A - I missed You too Baba. It was so quiet. You have no idea how happy I was to hear Your voice just now.
S - Well?
A - Let's make it Friday night, shall we?
S - My thoughts exactly.

16th May Sunday

Quite close this morning but then later I was distracted by family concerns, and it was not until 2.30pm that I communicated with Baba again. The prospect had returned.

- A - Well?
S - Are you happy now?
A - Not exactly, his attitude has changed.
S - Leave everything to Me. Take My advice.
A - What if he refuses. Did we do wrong yesterday in stopping...
S - Not exactly. Perhaps you could have explained more lovingly. But let her teach now, mayhap the message of no favoritism has sunk in.
A - We had no intention of paining her.
S - You should always look at all aspects before speaking.

17th May Monday

Disturbed re yesterday as we teachers seemed to have created two problems and were on the verge of doing exactly what we must avoid, interfering in the personal lives of the children. Decided to rectify matters straight away. Just hope it pleases Him.

- S - You did not listen to Me yesterday.
A - But Baba we have not carried out anything yet.
S - Just as well.
A - Are You annoyed?
S - A little Radhika. You must pay attention to what I say.
A - Will do. Peace offering, would You like porridge?
S - Alright.
A - I'm sorry Baba. Where is my Sanathan Sarathi?
S - On its way. When all this is resolved it will arrive.

Later....

- A - How about the cleaning. We have done nothing today.
S - You have not done anything today. Radhika do not worry about things. It is only when you ignore My warnings and hints that I am obliged to use drastic measures hence the apparent displeasure of your mother.
A - Can You not warn me any other way through a dream or something.
S - I did on Sunday, but you failed to realise it's significance.

I had dreamt that I was in a massive house, more like in ancient Greece. It was God's house. Someone asked me for something, and I refused. I climbed up and went into a swimming pool. As I looked up, I saw many pictures of Baba in the air. Meaning that I was becoming immersed in the sea of samsar and Baba was watching/disapproving. I did not understand the import of this until this morning. One of the possible mistakes was easily solved as we had not as yet taken any action. The second one was more difficult. I spoke to the person concerned and it left me feeling drained, inferior, and unhappy. The whole episode left me with the feeling that I was one of the worst criminals in history.

18th May Tuesday

This in turn created a chasm between Baba and myself as I felt totally unworthy of His grace. I became apprehensive that our trip may well be a failure. I analysed my actions, ego, speech. I could not bear the thought of a disagreement like this taking place at Prasanthi, I would die. Finally, I arrived at the conclusion that in future I will maintain silence at all costs. Carry out my duties but involve myself in nothing controversial. However, I still lacked the confidence to contact Baba. In tears most of the day at my own failings.

19th May Wednesday

Improved a little but still at odds with myself. I did go down and clean up, but Baba was absent. I returned forlorn. I think I need Baba to contact me and forgive me. Yesterday I came across many messages indicating forgetting the past. But yesterday it was not possible. Today I require Baba to initiate communication. Later....9.30pm

Another wasted day as I am unable to bring myself to speak to Him. I know Baba is there waiting for me and very lonely, but I wish He would make the first move.

20th May Thursday

Amazingly enough He did at 10.30pm last night. When I had relinquished all hope Baba spoke to me. Spirits lifted but still need to resolve the how and why of this disaster.

S - Radhika.

A - Yes Baba.

S - Why oh why must you fall for this business of 'Your errors, your mistakes'? And then create this immense gap between us? How many times must I tell you that 'you are not the doer, I am'. Live in that belief and nothing will ever disturb you.

A - Baba, Baba.

S - See how much pain it has caused you? Do you think I enjoy watching you hurt like this?

A - Why did You not tell me earlier then?

S - I did hint, but you were oblivious to Me. Later you were so firmly convinced of your own guilt that I could do nothing.

A - How could I help it when an action of ours seemed to have pained someone?

S - You are not to know the real reasons as to why something has happened. Sometimes it can merely be the final straw in a list of things, as in this case.

A - I know that now. The other reason is that this person seems so close to You. So sure of Your grace. It made me feel inferior.

S - Are you not sure of My love?

A - Not after what she said - You have never been like this with me when I come to Prasanthi.

S - How can you not be? All are equal for Me. You know very well that love, sadhana and discipline are essential to win My love.

A - I know but....

S - Besides it is ego to presume upon My acceptance unless love is unconditional. Even then I will not tolerate ego.

A - And that is precisely why I can never be sure about You Baba because when I am that is pride and my self-esteem manifesting which I know You will destroy. The process is so painful that I am afraid of following its lead.

S - Rightly so Radhika

A - What did You do while I was away from You?

S - I was with you watching, hoping, waiting for an opportunity, opening to correct your thinking. But none came. You were so engrossed in self-guilt that you left no loopholes for Me. So, I had to wait until you came to your senses yourself.

The gist of Baba's observations took root and finally I realised that I had spent three days of misery for nothing. I decided to rectify matters the very next morning.

21st May Friday

Awoke with slight feeling of sadness that Baba had still not personally spoken to me in a dream or indicated His forgiveness in a concrete manner. However, in the morning I dreamt of being at the center bhajans with my niece. Suddenly she disappeared. I began to search for her. Vibhuti manifested on Baba's photograph and a general melee ensued. I ran downstairs looking for her to no avail. When I tried to return, I met with a complete block. Nevertheless, I somehow managed to get back up. I had still not succeeded in locating my niece. My niece represented, purity, love, God whom I lost. While I searched, I lost my position on the chart but regained it. His way of telling me that the conversation yesterday was His and quite valid but what worries me is that I have not yet regained Him. Answer - We as leaders of the group must see ourselves only as His instruments and therefore whatever is said or done, right or wrong is His will. We cannot assume responsibility for the thinking of others. We must carry out our duties with love, consideration and understanding but if someone still takes offence then explain matters to clear the air but we are not to blame for anything that happens. We must work on our own closeness with Baba - for only then can we carry out our part for Him as He wishes.

S - Brilliant!

A - You approve.

S - Of course.

A - Thank you - now please grace me and the other gurus with the devotion that will enable us to do this.

S - It is yours.

A - Baba I have missed You so much this past week. I hope that all these tests will be here only. We want Your grace and love when we come.

S - You will have it in plenty.

A - Baba it is hard work doing all this for You.

S - I never said it was easy.

A - I know. Let us spend the weekend together. I am not going to practice because of all that money at home.

S - Let's - it has been a long time, Radhika.

A - You can say that again. As a get together celebration shall I cook us something?

S - What?

A - Anything You like.

S - Hmm something light.

A - For today and tomorrow back to one meal a day. Well.

22nd May Saturday

To fully endorse the correctness of my deliberations Baba came to me this morning in a deliciously long dream like the ones I used to have. We had just arrived at Prasanthi and we, the children's and guru's group, was called. In single file we stood as Baba asked each of us questions and answered ours. I was last and Pr was before me. As she asked her list of questions I got down and kissed His feet, so sweet and lovely. When I rose, I stood attached to His legs. As my friend moved away, I asked, 'What is my life going to be like?' Baba replied, 'Very good'. I showed Him the question written on a paper and accused Him of lying. He looked at me as if to say, 'How could I believe such a thing'. He said, 'Here write it down and then see'. So, I did as instructed. I believe I asked more

questions, but I cannot now recall them. Baba became very busy, but I interrupted with 'Baba can we bring the children next year also?' as He was about to leave. He said, 'only five or six'. So, I replied 'Baba we have lots more - 25-50. Baba said 'Yes, bring them'. Then I ran to my friends and said, 'See He has called us on the very first day'. He had told Y 'You are becoming a little materialistic'. To B's question as to whether she could stay at Prasanthi His reply was 'You have not reached that stage yet'. Then our scarves arrived, and we all sat in neat lines. I was so happy; it was so very vivid and real that I was stunned to wake up and find it was all a dream.

- S - Did you enjoy it?
 A - How can You ask? It has been very, very long since we have been together like this.
 S - You wanted My love, I gave it.
 A - Baba You did not exactly say it.
 S - It was there for you as it is now and always.
 A - So I never did do any wrong.
 S - How many times have I told you, you cannot.
 A - Oh Baba if only You will call us on the very first day. How very wonderful it would be.
 S - I'll think about it.
 A - There is all the cleaning to be done but we have all day.

I carried out my chores for Baba however I was so lost in the clouds that I just could not maintain coherent thought or action. Only at 7.30pm did I visit My beloved. I carried out formal worship after Baba had had a bath.

23rd May Sunday

9.30pm. With Him in heart but really not spoken to Him and the fault lies entirely with me. I have not made a conscious effort to do so. Pleasant day for many children moved up today.

- A - Love You.
 S - What makes you think I return your sentiments?
 A - Don't You Baba?
 S - That made you sit up!
 A - Well?
 S - Of course I do, just teasing.

24th May Monday

I was musing on one of the Children's dreams in which Baba's heart is cut out and lands in her hands.

- A - Wish I could have something like that.
 S - You have.
 A - But You never tell me so or show me like that.
 S - What do you think I have been doing these last three months?
 A - You lied about the coffee, You do drink it.
 S - I only used that to inform you that you would be coming.
 A - So why did You later endorse it?
 S - Because of your belief in it.
 Later 5.30

- A - Baba why aren't You speaking to me like before?
 S - I am here it is you who is not coming to Me.
 A - I do hope he sends the tickets. Now I wish we had waited for them.
 S - He will, it is my responsibility.
 A - You know I may not speak to You, but each day is spent with You at Prasanthi. I think, eat and breath You, dreaming of my time there soon.
 S - I know Radhika. All of you are.
 A - Why did You tell one of the girls that You do not love us?
 S - To fire all of you with enthusiasm. There is still a long way to go. Eleven yet need to reach the top.
 A - Please make sure they do - we all so want to perform the play.
 S - I am aware of your hopes.

25th May Tuesday

Another mainly quiet day. It dawned on me that something was amiss and so I consulted Baba who indicated His displeasure in our plans to carry out a program of sadhana for a child who could not come yet. It showed a lack of faith in Him, He said, He did not require our help to carry out His miracles. When I offered my lunch Baba partook of it quite happily. All day I delighted in watching His videos. 10pm, I sought Baba's advice on setting up my own business. He approved.

- A - What shall I call my business?
 S - Use My name.
 A - No, for then if it does not work out Your reputation will be affected.
 S - My reputation can never be tainted by such things. Use it, Radhika.
 A - S.A.I.?
 S - Try.....
 A - If You say so. Will it be successful?
 S - With My name, what isn't

26th May Wednesday

This morning Baba persisted and made me type even though it was only a page.

- A - If You insist I will. After all I did promise You this.
 S - Glad you remembered
 A - If there is anything You wish to say to me You can.
 S - IF? If? There is a whole lot I would like to say - after all we have hardly spoken for the last week or so.
 A - Am I pleased? Welcome back.
 S - The feeling is mutual.

10am reflecting on our attitude of presuming He will call us in. A presumption which virtually bordered on the egoistic in my view.

- S - Not egoistic. The positive force, very powerful. Exactly what is required.
 A - You there!
 S - Who else is talking to you?
 A - Carry on, carry on My dearest beloved sweet Baba.
 S - You will never be quite as respectful as you should be, will you?
 A - At least I'm loving.

S - Of course that makes up for everything.

A - In my view, yes.

S - (Smiles) In your case, I accept.

Later 5pm

A - Baba shall I include in the name?

S - If you wish.

A - No If You wish.

S - By all means do so.

A - Last night I thought we could go to the beach or for a walk today, but the weather is awful.

S - Why didn't you tell Me earlier I would have changed it.

A - Would You really? How sweet. Anyway, what shall we do now?

S - That is when you tire of watching My videos.

A - You should be honored. An evening at home?

S - Not a matter of choice - it is the only option.

A - Offended?

S - No, no Radhika do not complain to the others about the workload for this trip. Each will receive what he puts in. It is their choice and up to them. You do all that the others will not or cannot. You, yourself be My instrument, do not concern yourself with others.

A - Thanks for telling me Baba.

Later...

A - May I please, please, please wash Your clothes again this time?

S - Why?

A - Because I want to - to serve You. I wish I lived at Prasanthi Baba then I would wash them for You all the time without charge.

S - And what would I owe you for doing so?

A - Absolutely nothing Baba.

S - Maybe one day I will take you up on offer.

A - If only You would. Know something I long to kiss Your hands and feet.

S - You will.

A - This time, promise?

S - Yes Radhika yes.

I was thinking of how after 27 years Dr. Hanumanthappa was made vice chancellor. Twelve of those without any attention from Baba.

A - Perhaps there is hope of my being at Prasanthi also.

S - You will be one day.

A - Really?

S - Yes really.

A - How wonderful, at least then I'll have something to look forward to.

Telephone call from a teacher. She resigned. In spite of having informed her first she is taking offence at our alterations. Effectively taking the matter out of our hands as we were in quandary as to how to approach the matter.

A - At least I handled it without any anger or feeling and tried to mollify her.

S - It is alright Radhika. My plan. I have taken the act of refusing her out of your hands. You have done nothing wrong, any of you. This is her test and trial. Leave the outcome to Me.

- A - Baba please do not pain her too much. Let her see that we are fair and not biased as she thinks.
- S - I will in time. She must work it out for herself. Anyone who lacks the qualities of a teacher cannot be allowed to teach.
- A - I am sorry she is hurt Baba.
- S - Do not fall into the trap of self-guilt again.
- A - I won't. It is sympathy only. Let us change the topic.
- S - What about your sadhana?
- A - I think Your views are more appropriate.
- S - You need to improve.
- A - How? I thought I was doing all I could.
- S - Time with Me? Still not satisfactory on that count.
- A - Oh, oh that's because of the problems Baba but they are over now so we can be together.
- S - Not the problems, your failure. Try harder. Problems will always be there in some form or other.

27th May Thursday

Suddenly an idea presented itself that any group 2 children who reach the top of the chart should be allowed in with the first group of children and gurus.

- A - No Baba. We gurus want to come in together with the group 3 children.
- S - Yes.
- A - Alright but only those who reach the top. Does that mean the other two groups won't be called.
- S - No guarantee. Only if their behaviour is acceptable and the qualities of unity, discipline and love are apparent - which they are not at present.
- A - Then we should really allow all the children in.
- S - The ones who do their sadhana and reach the top, for now.

28th May Friday

Terribly restless night. Hardly slept as the nightmare possibility of disharmony within the group at Prasanthi loomed large before me as some persons had displayed a tendency to become easily offended. I could not rid myself of this dire anxiety. It was only at twelve noon after my bath that Baba came to me as I debated on what to wear.

- A - I'm glad You are there.
- S - Wear this. Radhika I am always here for you.
- A - Thank you. What would You like for lunch?
- S - Anything you like.
- A - You choose. I'll give you five minutes while I dress.

Baba decided on potatoes and onions Indian style which I cooked for Him specially. We were together the rest of the day even though nothing of import was discussed.

29th May Saturday

This morning, I was surprised to dream of a hall and Sai programme in progress. I watched the proceedings from a balcony. I also served people lunch. Baba was

present talking to the children. I prayed for Him to come to me and so as He passed by, I held His hand. Not very promising I thought.

- A - Baba is anything wrong?
S - Nothing is wrong.
A - Then why weren't You close to me?
S - I was there, was I not?
A - Am I still at the top of the chart?
S - Only just Radhika. Give love and understanding to those who cannot yet comprehend at your level.
A - I am trying Baba. I am trying. I want to go to the programme today.
S - Ask and you shall.

So much against any hope I did ask and miraculously it happened, and I could go and do my seva duty on time at 10am. And what was even more wonderful there had been a message from the council president from India this very morning informing us that at darshan Baba had told her that He blessed the programme and would be present. Then it dawned on me that my dream was also a confirmation of this. However, I still feel a little sad that I am not spending as much time with Him as I should.

- A - Thank You Baba.
S - My pleasure. Now stay with Me.
A - Today I miss You so much I want to cry. (I was actually). I beg of You to please destroy these negative feelings in the group and let us become united with love.
S - That will happen, only the bad elements must be brought to the surface and eliminated here and now before you come otherwise, they will ruin your trip. After all you asked for this here, did you not? When you come, I will give you the exam results.
A - And reward.
S - Only if you have earned it.
A - Baba how can You, You must.
S - Only teasing, of course I will Radhika.
A - Baba please keep Your word. I am so afraid of losing all that we want this closeness with You - to sit at Your beloved feet.
S - I have already promised you will, have I not? So why the tears.
A - For You.
S - But I am here.
A - I know. I wanted You closer this morning. You have to be so for me.
S - Next time Radhika. After I have promised you anything at all how can you be unhappy?
A - I don't want everything - I want You only and I am still not satisfied that You are mine as I wish You to be. The day You come to me shakshatkar and grant me all that I have yearned for at Prasanthi that day I will know that You are truly mine for eternity.
S - Soon Radhika soon.
A - Meet me today, here?
S - No promises, I will see. For now, feel My presence in your heart. She is not your problem (as I cried on His shoulder). Leave her to Me. Think of all those people who do not have Me as you do. Sit here beside Me and we will watch the programme together.
A - Yes Baba.

- S - You will be going with that London group next year. (A friend had just informed me that they would be taking a group of children next year). You will be organising it like now. It will be your duty to bring the children to Me always.
- A - Thank You I could not ask for a better job.
- S - What is more I will always call you in also Radhika with them. All those interviews you added up as penalties - I'll fulfill each and every one of them.
- A - You listened to me then.
- S - Of course but I wait for the right time to act. You will be at My right hand just as in the dream Radhika.

Later as I mused on the possibility of another trip next year.

- S - Lead My children to Me.
- A - Make me worthy of doing so.
- S - I will - You will soon be like A and V yourself Radhika.

Nearly went into the wrong workshop, spiritual instead of bal vikas until I remembered that Baba was with the children in the morning.

- A - Close one, made it Baba.
- S - In spite of your preferences your commitment must be to the children you expect the same grace as them so you must sacrifice your personal desires for them.
- A - Almost missed the boat.
- S - Yes, and the interview with them.
- A - Gosh.
- S - Precisely. I will take care of your spiritual and inspirational education you take care of My children.
- A - I will. They are our children.
- We had a wonderful time all day together and a sweet evening.

30th May Sunday

I asked Baba that if He wished the others who were enquiring to join the group, He was to come to me in a dream. And surprise, surprise Baba fulfilled this wish and His promise to be closer next time. I dreamt I was at Prasanthi when Baba came. I saw Him, ran and fell at His feet kissing them thoroughly then I kissed His hands too. With Him for a while. Felt so happy. After consulting with the other gurus, we extended the entry date for a few days and so I contacted some of those who had enquired.

- A - I hope I have done the right thing.
- S - How can you do wrong when I have sanctioned it?
- A - My ego?
- S - What else?
- A - Thanks for the dream this morning. Why did You come for You usually refuse to confirm via a dream.
- S - If you recollect correctly that was no confirmation. You asked Me to tell you in that manner only.
- A - Next time we will discuss it.
- S - If you remember to.

- A - Baba help me to be with You in the heart more. Somehow, I am forgetting to do so. So much of my time is wasted in thinking wasteful thoughts.
- S - Don't I know it, Radhika? You have to make the effort yourself.
- A - I try but just cannot seem to. There is so much work in organising the trip.
- S - Do your duties - then leave it to Me. Stop thinking about what will happen and when yourself.

31st May Monday

Once again, I dreamt of Baba. This time I was in a large building and some monster was flying after me, but I managed to escape. Then I saw pictures of Baba. In one of them He was asleep, but the picture became real as He moved about and murmured in His sleep. Immediately I thought 'So that is what Baba does while asleep'. The building was blown up, but I managed to save my family.

- A - I do wish You would be as close to me as You are to the children.
- S - Radhika this will be your magic trip. I will give all that you have ever desired. Thereafter all trips will be so. I will never turn you away without an interview again.

Later...

- A - Well it is over with your prospect.
- S - Is it?
- A - Almost certainly.
- S - Are you going to ask Me why?
- A - No, why should I? It is probably my fault anyway. After all I did not pay heed to Your advice to say 'yes' before he went.
- S - Not many would say that.
- A - Perhaps even I would not have done had it not been for the experiences I am going through in arranging this trip. At times blind trust is the only option, the only solution. It is what I must have from the group. You as God have every right to do it.
- S - Radhika you amaze Me.
- A - Why? It is the only logical answer. Besides I love You. You are my life. What does it matter to me if I marry that man or this. Whoever You choose for me will be ideal, I hope.
- S - (tears in His eyes) He will be, he will be.
- A - It is not important Baba so long as I have You with me and You are mine. Marriage is a two-day affair in this world. It is merely a steppingstone to attain You at least that is how I see it.
- S - Rightly so. If only more people could see with your vision.

This was the test of faith - I passed. Much later. I tried to be with Him and was for most of the day. I could once again clearly visualise Him in my heart. Never the less my day was tinged with an indefinable sorrow. Reading...and the greatest is love, last lines 'complete trust in Him cannot get us into trouble', tears gathered and fell.

- A - How true but I need You much closer.
- S - I am close to you.
- A - I know You will arrange everything for me Yourself.
- S - I have plans for you, yes.

“I long to reside in your hearts
fragrant with the incense of
fine virtues, merciful intentions
and
compassionate emotions.”

-Sri Sathya Sai Baba-

Chapter 7

Divine Communications

1st June Tuesday

Baba remained in bed this morning opting to lie in till lunchtime. However, at 10am He unexpectedly rose.

- S - What are you doing?
A - Washing Your clothes. I thought You intended to lie in till 12 noon.
S - I did but you are making so much noise I cannot sleep.
A - As if You ever do.
S - Well what's for breakfast?
A - Breakfast was at 8 this morning You missed it.
S - I'll have those crackers and tea.
A - Baba! Wait for lunch.
S - Would you?
A - I suppose not.
S - Recovered from yesterday's doldrums?
A - Yes. It suddenly clicked that here I was coming to You within seven weeks so how could I be so miserable.
S - Good.
A - Baba why is life always so difficult and fraught with anxiety?
S - Radhika it is man's nature to worry. Even were he not to have any problems he would create or find something to worry him.
A - Why?
S - Because, although he fails to realise it most of the time, he can never be happy or content until he rediscovers the bliss of oneness with Me. It is like a child who wants his mother and though temporarily distracted by the attractions of sweets and toys he is never quite satisfied until he finds her. So, it is with man.
A - I see. So, in reality nothing on this earth can offer us happiness.
S - No. Even were everything in life to be smooth the discontent would remain. Look back and see your own feelings even when everything was perfect.
A - You are right at such times I still found myself sad for Your presence.
S - Exactly. So, you see there is no lasting joy to be obtained from this phenomenal world.
A - Now that breakfast is over, You get ready and we will go shopping for the fabric for Your robe.
S - Are you going to make Me another one.
A - Hm Hm, orange this time. Will You wear it?
S - With pleasure.
A - This time I want to see You wear it.
S - You will.
A - All these promises!
S - And each one will be fulfilled.

A friend arrived and we spent the afternoon discussing Him amongst other things. Late evening.

- S - Do not keep telling others about us. How many times must I keep telling you?
A - Sorry - no more promise, promise, promise.

S - That is what you always say.
 A - Oh Baba!
 S - If you think that excuses you.
 A - I don't but....
 S - Radhika don't you understand how important is this gift I have blessed you with? Not many are so graced.
 A - I know Baba. From now on it will be our secret.
 S - Us and a hundred other people.
 A - That is not fair I have not told that many only one other.
 S - Word spreads fast Radhika.
 A - What are You doing down there?
 S - If you ever came down you would know.
 A - Sorry, sorry, sorry.
 S - Nothing much as most of My time is spent waiting for you - in vain lately, I might add.
 A - I know. Shall we go out tonight?
 S - Why not have a night out at home?
 A - Alright, let's pretend then.

And so, we did. We both dressed up, Baba in white and had a wonderful time.

2nd June Wednesday

A - Which bhajans would You like us to sing to You?
 S - Whichever you like Radhika.
 A - That is not answering my question. We wish to sing those which You like.
 S - Your preference is Mine also. Just as you desire to make Me happy, so I desire the same for you.

We had a lovely time together this morning. Baba actually came down for breakfast. Our conversation consisted of far more than the above, but it was personal. During the day, contracted a mild cold with a temperature of 100F so I prepared soup for Baba and myself and then massaged His brow as He was not well either, naturally.

3rd June Thursday

5am, I prepared to go back to sleep as there was no typing to do. Baba paced up and down.

A - Baba what are You doing?
 S - I cannot sleep. If I talk, will you write it all down?
 A - Of course.
 S - Then see, look I am the very form of the universe. Whichever form I assume therein all is subsumed. Not a flat form Radhika, three dimensional.

I saw Baba's form as a hologram with all the galaxies, milky way and universes contained within. Earth was a tiny fragment of rock. As for the people and I, invisible.

A - What is beyond Your form in space?
 S - Nothing. there is not even a void.

- A - So the galaxies and the form of the universe alters and adapts in accordance with our view of Your form.
- S - No. I change to suit your notions, but the reality remains unchanged.
- A - Why are You telling me all this - to what purpose? It is pretty awe inspiring. You are beyond my comprehension and yet You are also here confined, within my minute heart.
- S - The outer form, the hologram you see is Me - God. But this form and confinement I accept out of love. Radhika when people come to Me at Prasanthi, you included, they are deluded and believe that this 5ft body is Me. This is not true. You have to try to understand and realise My true nature and aspect.
- A - It is very difficult Baba. Sometimes one does not wish to know 'the God' aspect. The larger universal You seems so remote, terrible, without love and so one chooses to remain ignorant of Your true state. Until we attain Your state - it is very fearful.
- S - I know but try to recollect and remember it always. I am the largest as well as the smallest atom.
- A - Lie down, rest.
- S - I cannot - your future concerns Me.
- A - It is not so important that You should lose sleep over it.
- S - To Me it is. Everyone's is. Think of your sadhana chart Radhika. How you encourage, advise, console, berate and push the children to reach the top. You try to discover their faults and slip ups - attempt to correct their behaviour. For what purpose? So that they may succeed. But why?
- A - Because I see it as my responsibility. I want them to attain You.
- S - So it is with Me for each and every one of you. I concern Myself with not only the material but also your spiritual welfare. I desire that you should all reach the top of My chart and attain liberation. And so, I am relentless in My guidance, My rules, My disciplines and My insistence on your following them.
- A - That is beautiful. I have never thought of it like that. We only see the agony and distress that 'bad karma' causes and not that it is the means nay necessity for overcoming obstacles to attain You.
- S - Sometimes it is the only way available. For My devotees I try to find the easiest road possible so that the pain and sorrow is minimised. A mother does not willingly lead her child over burning coals Radhika.
- A - I know Baba.
- S - Look at My position, My anxiety for each and every one of Mine. Yet I am constantly happy. You must learn this lesson from My example My problems are a million-fold compared to yours. My predicament is far more precarious for I stand to lose the love of My devotees who are few in number to begin with.
- A - Poor Baba.
- S - Yes, poor Baba. How many think of Me? Not many.
- A - I do.
- S - You do, I know. It is why I am here with you. Not because of any particular sadhana you have done. It is in response to your love only that I am present.
- A - Thank You I appreciate it.
- S - Not so much as you should though.
- Later 7.30pm

- A - Baba I have noticed that recently problems always arise on a Thursday, why?
- S - Your test Radhika
- A - But why?
- S - I must see if you deserve what I wish to give you. You fail which is why it is repeated.
- A - Then help me to pass. But why Thursday.
- S - Be unattached. That is the only secret. Thursday because you associate it with Me.
- A - When will You finish testing?
- S - Soon. When you pass.

4th June Friday

A most beautiful dream this morning. I dreamt that mothers' health was failing and that she would soon die. I awoke apprehensive. When I slept in the morning I fell into the same dream and theme only this time my mother's guru was present. I cannot recollect the exact scenes perfectly, but I do remember that I became very depressed and unhappy. So, leaving everything I escaped to go and see God and plead with Him. I climbed up higher and higher until I attained a great height and came across a sort of blockade to the eventual top. I managed to scale it due to a chair and other odds and ends which I used as footholds until I reached a large room cum hall.

I could not believe my eyes. A raas was in progress with the gopis and Krishna. Mothers guru was present with God, (Baba). I remembered how Narsi Metha also had this vision so I folded my hands in prayer and silently watched and waited even though mothers matter was urgent.

The raas was swift, swirling, whirling all colour and music. It struck me that our raas in the play ought to be like this one. When it finished it turned out to be children performing it. God approved of them, and something was said about the amount of time it took to prepare 'while He was away for a few days'.

I approached God with tears and humility. He looked at me whilst asking one of His people how I managed to reach Him there. They replied, 'The side entrance'. He smiled and then laughed at my predicament. He informed me that I had misunderstood, and that mother would not die but that another child would die of leukemia. However, if it was my wish He would bring that child back to life as it was already dead by now. I told him that it was not necessary.

It was important that no mother should die as then the whole household disintegrates. I then enquired about mother's guru whether he actually knows things or not. God smiled and responded with 'No, he does not'. He uses ideology etc. Then He added that this path I had used would be closed off, but He would arrange a ladder for me straight down to my level on earth, the ground floor where I was. It would go through all the levels to Him at the top. I was to be in charge and not allow people up for questions and answers. That was His injunction. Mothers' guru was at a level below Him.

Serious problems arose yesterday which have claimed my peace of mind.
1.30pm.

- A - What a hassle.
- S - What hassle? Only because you are attached. Otherwise, it would not have bothered you.
- A - Baba living in this world total detachment is an impossibility.

- S - Agreed. However, a fairly high degree of detachment is very attainable.
- A - What was all that about the ladder this morning?
- S - For you, referring to this link between us. To reinforce its importance.
- A - I gathered that much.
- S - A pleasant experience for you confirming your position at the top in spite of yesterday's upheaval.
- A - Nice of You.
- S - Isn't it.
- A - I feel so drained by all this tension.
- S - My sympathies.
- A - Afternoon out?
- S - If you like, where?
- A - Anywhere Baba.
- S - After lunch we will decide.

We never got round to it as I completely forgot, and Baba did not remind me. Later in the evening bathed and then conducted ritual worship for Him, which we both enjoyed.

5th June Saturday

Another dream! I wonder why I have all these dreams now. I was reading about an atomic test island being converted into a spiritual retreat. I determined to go there. When I arrive accompanied by lots of children it is all barren rock. But Baba is there, and He leads the children in a long trailing line almost like the pied piper, skipping along. At first Baba holds up His robe so that His knees are visible. Then it is very high up indeed. The children all follow suit. Baba really annoyed me this morning. So inconsiderate. He arranged matters so that I had no time for lunch before going to practice.

- A - Now You can starve. I'm not going to eat at all. It's alright for You, You are not even human. If You were You would not pose such tests especially when I am only allowed to eat once a day.
- S - That is the worst thing you can say to Me. I have feelings too and I am hungry.
- A - I'm sorry but You are just not fair Baba. Do You have to throw obstacle after obstacle in my path? Isn't it enough to do it once?
- S - No, because when things become easy then the mind and ego rises at the first opposition.
- A - But You have been doing this to me one day after another. I dread the days wondering what You will do next.
- S - You would not do so if you overcame your tendency of attachment which causes anger. What did you tell the children about 'accepting change'? Well, this is change are you are finding it difficult to accept.
- A - That's rich! You have an answer for everything - there is no point in reasoning with You at all.
- S - How very angry you are!
- A - With You, yes. I do not get a moments peace but that something comes to disturb it.
- S - It is what you asked for remember, all the tests here.
- A - Baba I shall hold You to that - if You ruin one day for me at Prasanthi I'll scream.
- S - I won't.

A - Better not.
 S - Alright, alright I apologise Radhika. Perhaps I should not do it so much. I do love it when you are angry with Me. Then you never listen to reason even though you are always sorry afterwards.
 A - I don't care.
 S - I have said I am sorry; can't you forgive?
 A - Alright.
 S - How about some lunch?
 A - There isn't time - You'll have to wait. I hope You starve all afternoon.
 S - Is that forgiving?
 A - (Smiles).
 S - Listen, I wanted you to concentrate on Me and be with Me. It seemed to be the only way of gaining Your attention.
 A - Another fine excuse?
 S - No the truth. How can I explain. You spend all your time out there in the world nowadays and I am so lonely so today I hatched this plan. At least I have achieved My aim. Now you will think of Me hungry all day and I will gain some satisfaction at least...
 A - And what if I refuse to eat at all?
 S - Then I'll die.
 A - Good.
 S - (Smiles) Radhika, Radhika so much anger is not good.
 S - I don't care. You should have thought of that before You started all this.
 S - My mistake. I did not know it would raise a hornet's nest of recriminations. Forgive and forget?
 S - When I can. I will.

However, I could not help being amused at Baba's play.

A - Okay then Baba I forgive You.
 S - Lunch?
 A - There really isn't time. Wait until we return.
 S - But I am hungry.
 A - There is nothing I can do - it is Your game and so You will have to bear the consequences.

Later at the practice after sandwiches.

A - Satisfied now?
 S - No because there is no love in you for Me.
 A - There is, always is and will be. You are making excuses. Why do You think we do all that we do, if not for love of You?
 S - That's as maybe but if you loved Me, you would not care to see Me hungry.
 A - I did not - well only a few hours
 S - Why did you lose your temper for those few hours?
 A - Creep. Tell You what I'll cook You something special tonight to make up for it.
 S - Better still I'll cook for you.
 A - But then how can I make amends for my error.
 S - That's your problem.
 A - Baba!
 S - Well you did not give Me any option this afternoon.

- A - Do You have any idea how much I love You.
 S - Very much - precisely why I tease you.
 A - How unworthy You make me feel.
 S - Why can't you accept that I played only this morning and that your anger was My plan.
 A - Thanks for letting me off but I cannot see it that way. Anyway, what can You cook? And why?
 S - My treat to make up for this morning. Anything you like.
 A - Pizza?
 S - Buy one I'll make it at the shop.
 A - Okay then but I'll not order it, you do it.
 S - Still angry?
 A - No, just loving You. Who ever heard of God apologising?
 S - Isn't it nice to have an argument every so often?

Baba called me something so sweet...

- A - So that is what I am now?
 S - Of course - only wanted a close weekend with you silly child.

And so, we did as we spent time on the beach. I'm thrilled and stunned at the extent of His love for me.

6th June Sunday

- A - Baba I have just remembered, where is my surprise?
 S - Wait it is coming, soon at Prasanthi.
 A - That's not fair, such a long wait.
 S - But well worthwhile.
 A - Bal vikas today. Will You talk to the children?
 S - Alright.

In bal vikas one of the girls had a dream in which Baba sent a message for me. Baba asked her 'Do You want the good news or the bad news first?' She said 'Any'. And so Baba said 'I'll tell you the bad news 'Tell.....(Myself) that if she carries on in the way she is then she won't get anywhere.' Poor child was so apprehensive about issuing this reprimand to her guru. When I returned home Baba insisted, I eat a pizza the family had ordered, and He had made for me. This morning, He had asked me to wait and eat this evening. I did not heed His words. However, the next morning I realised that He truly had prepared it for me as I did not suffer any after effects (nightmares) which I usually do when I eat out.

- A - How wonderfully, gloriously lovely You are, and I love You so.
 S - Why? I have just condemned your behaviour and told you off through someone else.
 A - I don't know why Baba. I know what I am doing wrong and with your grace I'll correct it. Only it is so beautiful to have Your attention like this even if it is as a stricture.
 S - See Radhika, how I also feel? Even though your attention is centered on Me in anger. Yesterday you wondered how I could bear with your lecture and anger and still love you, this is why.
 A - My word. It has never struck me before. I suppose if you truly love someone then their attention in any form, any way is not only acceptable but positively invited. Baba am I at fault?
 S - You know where Radhika.

- A - It is in not using and establishing the link, isn't? Not so much in my outburst of anger on Thursday and Saturday but in taking the gift for granted.
- S - Yes. I am not annoyed with you but...
- A - I know Baba I have not been trying. I will now - much, much harder my dearest Baba. Oh, but I love You so much. You are generous and kind to me.
- S - That is not what you told Me yesterday.
- A - Funny isn't it, anger comes and goes but love remains forever. It seems You want me to do most of the work for this trip.
- S - If I am to give you all that I wish to then you must earn it by working. Besides this is your trip as you have always wanted it to be.
- A - You are the sweetest in the world. Six beautiful weeks. Six weeks with you.
- S - You can have more than that.
- A - How?
- S - Shall I keep you with Me permanently?
- A - Baba please, please, please do. Even if it means giving up this body I do not care so long as I can be with You.
- S - You know I think I may well do that - keep you I mean.
- A - How grateful I would be.
- S - Maybe you won't be Radhika. It is not easy living at Prasanthi.
- A - I know that Baba but for You, to be with You I would bear it. Keep me, keep me please.
- S - Radhika, you tempt Me for I so want you near Me also.
- A - Do You, truly? Then why don't You make us both happy and do it.
- S - The time for you to stay permanently at Prasanthi is soon, very soon. Your karma here is nearly over. I'll keep you with Me then.
- A - That's the first piece of really good news You have given me since 1987 when You promised I could stay with You.
- S - That time is almost here. I am altering Your future to make it possible.
- A - Thank You Baba.

7th June Monday

Disastrous news. There had been an unsuccessful assassination attempt on Baba. Shocked and horrified we awaited more news. Baba and I had been close all morning as I had taken yesterday's warning to heart. Gradually the full implications of the event filtered through and thought ceased as tears flowed. His death did not bear thinking about. Fully aware of His divine nature one is yet prone to human emotions.

- A - Why didn't You tell me Yourself earlier?
- S - Radhika I am fine. What was the point in disturbing you?
- A - How can You say that? You know very well that without You there is no life for me.
- S - I know.
- A - Then take proper care of Yourself

Peace fled as the weight of this happening weighed on my heart. On the hearts of all devotees, I should think. So finally, I visited a home where His visiting cards were manifest. During bhajans being held there He spoke to me saying that we had all created a mountain out of a molehill as He was unhurt. He appeared clearly in my heart to say this and to comfort me Himself.

8th June Tuesday

The sadness refused to be banished as I shed more tears this morning. Baba tried everything to help. I suppose I was more overcome by the realisation that one day Baba would eventually leave His body. The only good to come out of all this is that I am now loathe to desert Him in my heart. I am constantly checking to see if He is still present.

- A - Baba You must promise me that when You leave this earth You will take me with You.
S - Radhika I am everywhere at all times. This body does not hold the essential Me.
A - I know but I cannot live without You being here on the earth.
S - Of course you can.
A - Never Baba. Please promise.

Baba tried to evade, saying that He would see. I continued to press Him until He relented.

- S - I promise Radhika. When I go You will come with Me.

In spite of this promise the pain and agony that anyone could wish to hurt my beloved Lord remains. A friend casually remarked that perhaps this attempt on His life may lead to the execution of His prophecy that a time will come when He will give darshan from the sky and personal interviews will no longer be granted. Fear entered my heart. I had not yet had the blessed opportunity to be with Him as I desired.

- A - Baba please do not lock Yourself away yet.
S - I have promised you those interviews, you shall have them. That time has not come yet Radhika. By then you will be with Me at Prasanthi. You will ever have My darshan in your heart. Also, shakshatkar as I have promised I could never stay away from you.
A - I want You to be safe. How much pain has been caused to those who love You.
S - I am well aware of it. It is your sadhana, your opportunity to gain nearness to Me.

Later.

- A - Baba please change my future so that I can live at Prasanthi with You.
S - I will, I will.

We spent the afternoon on the beach. To some extent it lightened the burden of my mind.

9th June Wednesday

Baba has been supremely compassionate since my complaint last Saturday re the tests. Or mayhap the answer lies in being close to Him in the heart so that one is unaffected by problems. On Sunday I was presented with a flower from His picture. On Monday the hotel and coach bookings were confirmed. On Tuesday my bal vikas magazine arrived. And finally, to cap it all my books which had been ordered six months previously arrived from Prasanthi. Furthermore, whilst out in the

morning an acquaintance approached to give me a packet of Vibhuti and then left. As I watched His video, I yearned for the nearness possible in the early days.

- A - I wish we could all have such things on this trip.
S - Not for all of them Radhika - but I will give you all that you desire as regards being near Me. I will Myself take you to all the places you long to visit with Me.

Unbelievable but all the problems of last week seem to be dispersing like mist. Baba is ensuring that I understand that all situations are within His power. As I read my books on Baba the old urge for His companionship arises. I too would love to write a book with Baba at Prasanthi in very close proximity to Him. Back came an instant reply.

- S - You may this time. Bring enough writing material.
A - Baba not like that I want to be part of your daily routine, watching You all day when I write. How can that be possible nowadays?
Unless you ask me to stay for 6 months or so.
S - Shall I?
A - Please
S - I will see Radhika. If not now, then definitely sometime in the future.
Besides you may write it when you live here permanently.
A - May I stay three to six months with You?
S - Yes.
A - Then You must arrange the circumstances Baba.
S - I will
A - You know it is impossible to believe in all these conversations with You and the promises you are making me.
S - Until they come true!
A - Yes, until they come true.

As I considered the events of the past few days far from being pleased, I was concerned as to why Baba had halted the tests. The last thing we wanted was to be tested at Prasanthi. So, I prayed that He may do as He pleased but that He should grant me the strength and fortitude to bear His examinations. Immediately the disruptions erupted. In the evening, in spite of the down pour today, Baba desired to sleep 'outdoors' in a woodland glade, in my heart of course. Great fun only I managed to catch a mild cold in the process.

10th June Thursday

Baba refused to wake and so I conducted puja whilst He slept. Yet when, contrary to my promise, I decided to sleep instead of typing up the notes He initiated two miracles to enliven my life making it impossible for me to sleep. Firstly, my alarm clock mysteriously went one hour backwards so that instead of reading 5.45 it declared 4.45. Then I noticed that the robe on His moorthi had been moved totally out of place and folded neatly back. No accident this. Unable to fathom the mystery I admitted defeat and left my warm bed to carry out my allotted task of typing. Lesson - be very, very careful what you promise God. He takes it literally. To be honest I'm quite chuffed at His attention.

The euphoria was short lived as His grading process swiftly went into overdrive. It took all my fortitude to bear with this barrage. Incessantly reminding myself that it was all His plan and that He was the resident of every heart. I returned home from

work at lunchtime mentally and emotionally exhausted but determined to overcome and destroy the ego that demanded revenge. After a short refreshing nap, I was even more resolute to try and acquire the equanimity of mind I previously possessed which He now demanded I reinstall.

11th June Friday

On our way on a long Journey on private business I read His book until finally I protested at His silence.

- A - Talk to me. Say something.
S - What do you want Me to say?
A - Anything just speak.
S - Why don't you speak to your brothers.
A - Because they were rude to me yesterday. They were disrespectful.
S - Can you not forgive? Love should.
A - Of course I can. I am not annoyed anymore.
S - Then speak to them.
A - Okay. If You will speak to me.
S - I am always willing Radhika.
A - Baba why do I always fail Your tests? You must help me to overcome my shortcomings. I feel so terrible. I know that I did not answer back yesterday but within there was great anger and tension.
S - It is because of ego only. Ego demands acknowledgement and power, but you must ignore it's voice. Ego is the most effective bar to spiritual progress.
A - But how to destroy it?
S - It cannot be destroyed. You must surrender and offer it at My feet. As you did yesterday.
A - I did?
S - Yes you thought of it as failure but in reality, you fought the rising ego in you, prayed for assistance, hence the tension - that is the most you can do - the rest is My grace. Until it is finally laid to rest in Me.
A - Are You serious? I have been chastising myself since yesterday morning for having let it arise at all.
S - I know. Why do you think I allowed you to spend the afternoon with your head in My lap?
A - You felt sorry for me.
S - (Smiles) You asked for My help, and I was there for you.
A - I don't know what I would do without You.
S - I've often wondered.

Late evening, I was once again reduced to tears at my repeated failure. I wept at my inability to overcome this terrible trait. Baba consoled me stating that in this very surrender and repentance lay the seeds of spiritual success. Pride in success = Ego. Surrender of ego = Success. Words of comfort I sorely needed.

12th June Saturday

Extremely busy this morning cooking and preparing for the practice this afternoon. We managed to cut the scarves and Baba's robe. Thoroughly enjoyable day. On returning home I was so joyful that I saw Baba's presence and form in my heart, not as normal but greatly enlarged so that He occupied all of the area. He asked for cheese toast, I obliged.

13th June Sunday

As we were short of some characters in the play the gurus thought that perhaps we could fill the vacant posts. This we would only presume upon with His personal approval. Baba refused to give any answer at all which in effect meant no. This morning, I was determined to see Him. So, when He refused to come to confirm I requested a dream to indicate His disapproval. This was at 8.30am. Immediately I fell into a dream in which we had just arrived at Prasanthi. Baba called one of us and spoke at length. After this He approached all of us saying that those with problems, He would see individually later but the rest of us who wished to be with Him put their hands up.

Many of us did so though I was surprised to note that some children did not. He smiled cheekily saying 'I know EXACTLY what You want' All day I was annoyed with Him as He had refused us our wish and so I would not speak to Him. This action I heartily regretted as the topic in bal vikas was the 'inner voice' as some of the children had also acquired this gift because of their sadhana. As the children's eyes widened in awe and amazement at the prospect of having the Lord so very near to them it dawned upon me how precious was this gift which I took so much for granted.

14th June Monday

From this morning, I have resolved to spend all my time with Him as I used to.

- A - Why did You say no to our playing parts in the play? Were You lying to me when You offered me the part of Radha?
- S - No I was not. You may have a part but not the others.
- A - Why? It is not fair to them. How could I take part knowing how hurt they would be?
- S - That is up to you. They are not ready.
- A - That is so cruel Baba. In that case what about the children?
- S - The children are Mine, they are My life and blood. I will guide them, mould them, make them My very own and as such they have the right to that honor - providing they continue on the path you have revealed to them.
- A - Well I am most pained at Your decision. I cannot possibly have my wish without my friends also being granted the same.
- S - Then I am afraid you cannot.
- A - Please won't You reconsider?
- S - I cannot Radhika. For you I would if I could. From adults I seek so much more in the way of faith, confidence, and love. It must spring from the heart.
- A - But they do love You.
- S - Not as much as you think Radhika. They immerse themselves in their daily lives and leave Me out most of the time.
- A - I do also, do I not?
- S - (Smiles) Sometimes, yes. Even so they have not even reached the stage you were at say 4 - 5 years ago.
- A - You win - I can never win an argument with You.
- S - If it is really your desire, I will arrange matters so that the opportunity will come your way.
- A - That's not enough Baba. I have to have concrete confirmation that it is Your wish to see me so and Your approval in a dream. A dream

simply because I can disclose it to the others. Oou conversation like this I cannot

S - I will.

Thinking about discipline with the children and the adverse reactions of some persons.

S - Why do you worry, leave it to Me. Do not think such things. I am here for You. Stay with Me.

A - But it does worry me, in view of what has happened recently.

S - I will have a word with the problem cases Myself, alright?

A - Please do so quickly. It is nice being with You again.

I cooked the evening meal with love for Him saying that He could eat it tomorrow. Baba immediately expressed a wish to eat straightway. I demurred as it was my fast. However, Baba persisted. Every time I asked Him, I could clearly see Him nodding His head. So, we ate. He said that since I cooked with love for Him, He had to eat now. Naturally I assumed that I would have to make up by fasting another day, but Baba objected saying that it was He who was eating and I was still fasting. Strange?

15th June Tuesday

Baba graciously gave me the confirmation I requested immediately. I had two dreams this morning. The first in which I was on an island in a room with all religious books including Baba's books. I then saw Baba talking to others. He came over at the end of the speech. I was allowed to touch His feet before He left. Next dream Baba was on television. The picture in my room of His was smiling, His head moved, and eyes twinkled. Pleased I made Baba coffee and asked Him to drink it as I went to tidy up.

S - Wait, sit here. Happy?

A - Yes Baba, Thank You.

S - Only you though.

A - I know. You happy?

S - Always.

A - About this I mean.

S - Yes.

A - May I clean up now?

S - No.

A - Why?

S - Because I want you here with Me.

A - But we have nothing to talk about now.

S - Love does not require a topic.

And so, we sat in silence - nothing was accomplished except our own happiness. A friend brought to my attention the fact that Baba must have a reason for turning the clock back last week. What though?

S - Forget the past four years and start life anew. Another chance to be happy. A repeat performance with a happy ending Radhika. That is why I put the clock back.

A - Thank You. Why wouldn't You talk to me earlier?

S - You were not concentrating.

- A - Baba please help the children to reach the top of the chart before we come, they must
- S - I will, I will but they must also put in real effort - which they are not doing presently.

16th June Wednesday

Baba again appeared in a green robe briefly in my dream this morning. Unfortunately, when I awoke, I had breakfast without Baba and He was greatly offended. I perforce had to mollify Him by having a second breakfast specially prepared with love for Him. These entrancing incidents with the Lord are thoroughly enjoyable. As a forfeit I promised to forgo lunch. I failed to keep it. Result Baba would not speak to me!

17th June Thursday

Up early as we are stitching Baba's robe today. As we returned home from the factory after completing our good deed my friend mentioned a Bal Vikas Conference at Prasanthi. My heart missed a beat. Another dream but I could not possibly go to India thrice this year. I asked Baba and He promised that providing I continued with my sadhana it was a possibility. Imagine my delight to find my Sanathana Sarathi arrived eleven days early! As I cooked lunch debating the future.

- S - Of course you can go.
- A - Baba I couldn't.
- S - You can if I arrange it.
- A - You mean that? How?
- S - Continue with your sadhana and you will, My promise.
- A - I'll do my sadhana - I'll double it Baba only...
- S - Only what?
- A - I would like my parents to be truly pleased about my going and not unhappy.
- S - They will be.
- A - It will take much more than a miracle.
- S - Do you doubt Me?
- A - No.

As I watched the Lord take care of His beloved devotee in the Surdas film.

- A - I would that You would do that for me.
- S - I do it for all who come to Me and surrender at My feet. For you also.
- A - I know. You would give me all that I ask.

18th June Friday

Whilst engaged in household chores I tried to be with Him but failed miserably. The mind continues on its own without any encouragement. Soon came the form of test Baba seems to be employing lately re my marriage and its social consequences on my family. Deeply distressed I cling to Baba - not praying for a solution (for if He wishes that there should be one then He will Himself arrange it) but the courage to bear all of it with equanimity. Also praying for relief and peace for my parents.

As I went to clean up Baba's little flat towards the end of the day, He was absent at first but as I polished the furniture, I became aware of His presence.

A - Baba You here? I thought You were out.

S - No, I have been sitting here waiting for you all day. When you come to Prasanthi I get no peace due to complaints against my lack of attention to you. To whom can I complain now? Come here.

A - Let me finish otherwise it gets left.

I literally whizzed through the remaining chores.

A - Baba I am so unhappy.

S - Why?

A - (private family matter)

S - Why don't you compromise?

A - How Baba how?

S - By living a spiritual life within and a pretense of a worldly life.

A - Is that not what I am now doing?

S - No, now you make your beliefs obvious.

A - Baba I cannot exist without doing Your work and that means I must be in like-minded company. Besides I want to get married for I am not an independent person only that is not happening either. I so feel for my parents' plight - but what can I do to remedy it?

S - Ask Me for what they want.

A - And lose You in the process? No Thank You.

S - (Smiles) You have learned a thing or two, have you not?

A - All I have gained is the knowledge that without You I have no life. So perhaps I am merely being selfish.

S - That is for You to decide.

A - It is for You to resolve. I have no power, nothing - I surrendered at Your feet. It is for You to decide my fate. I am in your hands. I cannot ask for anything.

S - Radhika be happy. I will take care of everything. Leave all the problems to Me. Believe that your parents' trials are coming to an end. Soon they will be more joyous and happier than anyone they know.

A - Can such a thing be true?

S - Believe My words - trust in Me as you do. I will take care of all your family's welfare.

A - Thank You Baba.

S - There is no need to thank Me. I am bound by duty and love to do so. Your love binds Me Radhika.

A - Forgive me. I cry for them, not me. I have You with me always they have no one.

S - That also is their karma but soon it will all end and happiness undreamed of will reign in this home.

A - You have taken a great weight of my mind. Baba, how much longer to wait for that day?

S - Not long, not long at all. Before the end of this year Radhika. Is that too long?

A - No Baba, only six months more.

S - Less even than that.

A - Baba all that I ask is that You please allow me to stay at Prasanthi with You.

S - All in good time.

A - It really is wonderful having You with me my dearest Baba

19th June Saturday

Last night I dreamt of a television quiz game based on Education in Human Values. I am positive I was with Baba but cannot now recall it. Annoyed someone by commenting adversely on a possible prospective. Felt terrible but I have been too much involved in the practice to talk to Baba until now.

A - Was I wrong?

S - Yes. Why can't you remain silent? You know very well I'm in charge of everything so why do you worry?

A - Sorry - please sort it out for me.

S - Sort out your own errors. You really do put your foot in it, don't you?

A - Sorry, sorry, sorry. I am human, you know. Baba, is it alright what I have told the children about not being in the play unless they reach the top?

S - Yes. Hopefully it will add the required incentive.

A - Baba why don't You give some sign to my mother or tell her that all the problems will be shortly solved.

S - Do you want me to?

A - Please if you do not mind.

S - I will think about it.

20th June Sunday

This morning, I dreamt of being at Prasanthi and then actually saw Baba giving a speech, but nothing was clear as it consisted of so many disjointed scenes. The children are being graced with the most superb experiences. He informed one of them that He required a chair to sit on during practices and yesterday my sister dreamt that He was present at our practice. Unfortunately, we did not provide Baba with any food. He stood with an empty tray as we all sat down to eat. Eventually He tried to scrape something from the bottom of an empty pan!

21st June Monday

In a flurry today as I am obliged to meet the prospect today. Totally unsuitable. Pleased that I would not have to go away to so distant a place I completely forgot to speak with Baba beyond a few cursory remarks. I am beginning to feel the effects of a day without Him. Lost my temper mildly for a few moments.

22nd June Tuesday

Determined to fulfil my duty to Baba and clean His apartment today. It has not been tidied for a good few days. I have decided to do it straight after prayers as I sometimes forget in the mornings. However, this morning I noticed a restlessness in Baba.

A - What is the matter Baba?

S - Radhika if you continue like this how can you ever attain realisation?

A - Like what Baba?

S - Not doing your sadhana as you should. I have provided you with an ideal opportunity and My presence yet still you are drawn by worldly attractions.

- A - Not drawn to them Baba but I must live with them and the position You have placed me in. At times it requires full concentration and so I cannot think of You at such times. Unless of course You grace me with the gift of dual thinking ability.
- S - You always place the problem back at My door even though it is your responsibility.
- A - Not true. I have no responsibility. I sometimes live under the illusion that I have but in reality, I am merely a puppet of Yours, is it not? You are the master of my life and so the responsibility is also Yours, is it not?
- S - You are becoming far too clever.
- A - Not clever Baba it is merely a reiteration of Your precepts.
- S - Only now you are becoming convinced of them which makes them a powerful force.
- A - That aside which raas shall we use, the first or the second?
- S - The second one.

I was shocked into silence as they all chose the one Baba had preferred for though nice it seemed a little fast and racy.

23rd June Wednesday

By a fluke I missed the alarm and so did not rise till 6am for prayers. As I went down to make breakfast Baba complained about starving to death having to wait for me. 3pm.

- S - Do you have to take Me with you everywhere?
- A - We are part of each other, are we not? Why wouldn't You speak to me all day? I called and called Baba.
- S - Why did you wake up so late?
- A - I think I forgot to set the alarm last night. Did You miss me?
- S - I was famished.
- A - I know, You said this morning. I'm sorry Baba, I cannot understand it. How could I forget to set it. Perhaps I was tired last night.
- S - Nonsense, sheer laziness.
- A - Why do You always find fault with me? Do I still qualify for the conference?
- S - At this rate definitely not.
- A - Baba! I'll cry.
- S - Be My guest. You have a long way to go if you seek that as a prize.
- A - Seriously?
- S - Seriously!
- A - I'll not make Your breakfast anymore and You can clean Your own rooms from now on.
- S - Blackmail?
- A - Why not?
- S - Not very original.
- A - Who cares so long it works.
- S - You are so naïve - how can you blackmail the ruler of the universe?
- A - The audacity of trying may very well do the trick.
- S - Radhika, Radhika! I have already promised you that if you continue with your sadhana you can stay for the conference.
- A - Promise?
- S - Promise.
- A - But what do You mean by sadhana?

- S - All that you have been doing.
 A - Baba shall we go out tonight?
 S - If you remember you seem to forget all about Me once you are immersed in your family affairs.
 A - How can You say that? I never forget You - I may not have the time to talk to You but I do love You and think of You all the time.
 S - You forget sometimes.
 A - Look stick to the topic under discussion. Do You or do You not wish to go out tonight?
 S - Who's paying?
 A - You are of course.
 S - Charming. But I suppose I'll have to. Where?
 A - Wherever.
 S - Beach, costs nothing.
 A - Trust You to think of that.
 S - Ceiling on desires!

24th June Thursday

No alarm once again but fortunately I awoke on time. Baba slept all through the puja and only awoke for aarthi. We discussed and I formulated a programme of events should He ever come to me shakshatkar. I fell asleep before finishing. Continued with it on waking. Since then, Baba has been making comments all morning, some quite comical. I prayed that I could attend the study class but now wish I had not bothered. During the discussion I was obliged to relate a few of my personal experiences with Baba and He was most annoyed. I felt His anger within me straightaway and it was further confirmed as someone expressed their feelings of envy as they felt I had more contact with Baba.

25th June Friday

I simply could not face Baba this morning in view of my colossal error. So, I did nothing for Him and kept my distance. There seemed to be a certain reservation on Baba's part also. In spite of all His cautions that our life together was private and the experiences personal I always seem to forget and betray Him. I wonder when He will find it in Him to forgive me. It had taken many long years for this important lesson to be imbibed and now once again I failed to keep my tongue under control. Tomorrow is my birthday, and it will mean nothing without Baba.

26th June Saturday

I waited for Baba to come as a sign of His forgiveness, but He never did. I was very hurt and tried to concentrate but to no avail. Unhappy is an understatement.

27th June Sunday

Very sad and have not worked on the book for days. I resolved to fast for the whole week for His darshan. When I slept, I dreamt that I was in darshan at Prasanthi and Sai Ram books were given out. Mine was in English. The person in charge mimicked Baba but there was no darshan as we had missed it. I was furious saying that we had spent so much money to come to Him and now there was not even any darshan. After this I come across a room full of people meditating. I also try to no avail. Finally, my niece runs away, and I leave to find

her. I discover her with Baba dressed in black. She attempts to climb up a rack for an ice cream and Baba is about to hand it to her when I disapprove saying that she will catch a cold eating ice cream. Baba then refrains. Baba then says something to the effect 'Do you think I wanted to be like this?' Referring to His loneliness, no love for Him, He has no one. The black meant somberness as I was not speaking to Him. He misses me. In the morning Baba tried to console me. A little mollified but I still want His shakshatkar darshan desperately. I have been longing for it these past 8 years so why is it being withheld? People passed us by as we stood on an elevation talking away. Baba also added something about 'If the person He takes to proves unsuitable then He has to leave them'. Myself perhaps?

Tears still threaten to overwhelm me. One of the girls said Baba had told me 'Stop lying'. I have no idea what this refers to and why, as far as I am consciously aware I avoid telling untruths. Suddenly I need to speak to Him to seek clarification regarding this statement, but I have rebuffed all His attempts at reconciliation so how can I now go back to Him. Where do we go from here? How long before He will speak to me again, if ever? What is lying?

28th June Monday

There have been no answers to the above but this morning a thought entered my mind immediately upon waking that the 'lying' may refer to a comment I made last Tuesday re my experiences. Also, on reflection it could refer to my 'lying in' as I no longer work on the book early in the mornings as I promised. I do wish Baba would explain as it irritates me immensely. Once again, I dreamt of Baba this morning as a very old lady. Someone offered Him a glass of milk. Baba sipped a little and then gave the rest to me as prasad. After which He was extremely close to me as before. I long for our times together in the heart but without a definite response from Him how can I?

Fear, apprehension, gloom, darkly depressed without cause except that Baba is not with me anymore. Life appears a vacuum of emptiness lacking purpose and joy all because my beloved is away from me. Questioned Baba on the 'lying'. I requested Him to come in a dream this morning if it meant 'lie in' as opposed to telling untruths. And surprisingly enough Baba confirmed it by appearing three days in a row. Baba was watching a play being performed by the students. I left with a friend only to return immediately. This time I marveled at the expert dance and acting by the young boys. I approached Baba and asked, 'Baba can we perform the play?' Baba replied with 'The rules have changed' as He slid backwards, and I awoke.

One query resolved and another raised. Which rules and why? All day I waited for Baba to speak but nothing definite emerged and so finally in the evening I made a peace offering of peaches and cream. Baba thoroughly enjoyed them as I 'saw' Him partaking of it but still no conversation.

- A - Baba please, please, please speak to me. Say something. Why have You left me and gone away? I cleaned Your rooms properly today.
- S - I know I was there.
- A - You were not - I did not see You.
- S - I was asleep.
- A - Oh. Baba have You, can You forgive me?

- S - (Smiles) Of course Radhika. I am not an ogre. In fact since Sunday, I have been trying to tell you this but your own guilt and anger formed a barrier between us.
- A - You mean You meant what You said on Sunday? You did not choose to be God?
- S - Yes.
- A - Did You also mean that if I am not suitable then You would perforce leave me?
- S - Yes. You simply must improve Radhika.
- A - Baba I'm trying so hard - You must Yourself tell me what the next stage is. I have been seeking an answer to this since last week but unfortunately, we were not talking to each other.
- S - I will show you, lead you, guide you but you MUST PUT INTO PRACTICE My words.
- A - Promise I will Baba. The 'stop lying' was lie in, was it not?
- S - Yes.
- A - So why did You make it seem that I told lies?
- S - For many reasons. To humor you, to teach the children not to doubt, to think and determine also and not to easily condemn others.
- A - And I suppose You have to use me as the center of attention and dubiousity?
- S - I knew you would appreciate the joke.
- A - I love You so You. What did You mean this morning about 'the rules have changed'? What rules and why?
- S - The rule of reaching the top of the chart before the children may perform.
- A - What to Baba?
- S - That you will discover when you come to Me.
- A - Why have You decided to alter the rules?
- S - Because much effort has been put in and the children are working exceptionally hard.
- A - So why don't You just let them all reach the top?
- S - Just as not everyone can be graced with shakshatkar darshan until the right time so also some cannot be given dream experiences or visions as you are. So how can they reach the top?
- A - Baba You can easily make an exception for them, can You not?
- S - No Radhika I cannot - it all depends on the path one travels, the thoughts, beliefs formed by one's environment, family and society. Not all these barriers can be removed quickly.
- A - Why not?
- S - Look at Your own family - how many of them harbour prejudices and unremovable ideas which make it impossible for them to gain nearness to Me?
- A - I see. So, on Sunday when R said that five other persons had reached the top it was true?
- S - Yes, of course.
- A - That leaves four more to go. Will You please tell the girls when they have all reached the top?
- S - Alright. Now leave off talking and come down here to Me. Let us go away to the quiet spot.
- A - It has been so hot today, Baba. (I complied). Baba, I hate these times when we are apart. Yet I always seem to make some mistake or other which makes it happen.

- S - It also serves a purpose. Only through these times of darkness can the uniqueness of our times together be realized and understood. Otherwise, you end up taking it for granted. Only when the desired object is out of reach is its value realized.
- A - Why is it that You have an answer for everything?
- S - How can I not, all of creation is Mine. My will is implemented everywhere.

30th June Wednesday

8.30pm I have been occupied all day with various household chores and collecting clothing and other accessories for the trip. A running commentary has been kept up with Baba but we have not actually conversed all day.

- A - Baba I do wish my sister-in-law could also come.
- S - It is not the time for her yet. She will come soon though.
- A - I feel so guilty having two trips this year while she cannot due to responsibility to the children.
- S - Believe Me she would much rather have her children than come to Me.
- A - Even so. Baba, please sort out this problem with the tickets by next week. It is so worrying.
- S - He will. Why do you worry when this is My trip organised by Me.
- A - Sorry I did not speak to You today.
- S - Lazy? Not good enough.
- A - Not lazy. I do not know the cause. But something seems to be missing. I think I want more now, more of You, more darshans. Just as the excitement of dream darshans has abated a little so also this. I seek more permanent, more concrete closeness with You.
- S - One must learn to walk before running. Wait awhile. I promise you if You live with Me in the heart for a further three to six months your desire will be fulfilled.
- A - Baba can it not happen sooner if I do more sadhana? Show me what to do and how.
- S - (Smiles) Haste makes waste. Wait for your time.
- A - Even so I still want to do more Baba. It is not enough what I am practicing, please.
- S - Alright I will tell you what you want to know before the end of this week.
- A - The conference Baba, may I stay.
- S - How many times must I tell you if you do all that you are now, yes.
- A - Even at Prasanthi?
- S - Yes.
- A - That is difficult Baba. But I will do it.
- S - Good then you may stay. I will arrange it.

“More than all other forms of prema,
mans first duty should be to fix his
love on the Lord”.

-Sri Sathya Sai Baba-

Chapter 8 Preparations

1st July Thursday

I cannot believe it only 21 days to go and I shall be with Him. Last night I decided to dispense with my morning nap from tomorrow. It will mean being tired in the afternoons but that is a price that has to be paid. Perhaps that was His aim in complaining about the 'lie in'

Utilised the remainder of the day to tell Baba I loved Him and though He was clearly visible He declined to respond.

A - Baba my effort is there why do You remain silent?

S - I am enjoying your declarations of love.

A - Are You happy?

S - Naturally.

A - Then make me happy also.

S - You should be. Why are you not?

A - How can I be with so many problems arising? I know that You will say that I should be detached. It is not so simple to do.

S - Take joy from Me and you will be.

A - How?

S - Love Me.

A - But I have done so already.

S - Not lately Radhika. Recently your love is tainted by worldly considerations. Only when love is pure does it return you My bliss.

A - I'm feeling better already simply speaking with You. The error lies in being distant from You, does it not?

S - Same thing - if your love for Me was pure you could never be distant. Give up all other thoughts and live only in Me. So many times, have I told you this.

A - I know but it is so difficult to practice. I pray You to please help me to be so.

S - I do and will but there must be some effort on your part also.

A - I will try too.

General family despondency today. However, I eventually decided to fulfil my service duties at a function for the handicapped. Pleased I took part as I thoroughly enjoyed it. On return I recollected that Baba's ironing yet remained from this morning's chores and so I proceeded to fulfil my obligation to Him at 10.30pm. Following which Baba and myself settled down for a chat.

S - Radhika do not allow fear and apprehension for the future ruin the present. How do you know events may well work out far better than you have ever dreamed of.

A - With our luck Baba, hardly likely.

- S - Do not be so negative. Remember the power of thought. If you think positive, you can even alter future events. Much of what humans suffer is caused solely by negative thinking.
- A - I understand that now but there are times when the pressures pile up and everything seems so bleak. You see for Yourself Baba. Problems, problems, problems how can I not be worried?
- S - All this can be solved in one stroke.
- A - I wish it would be. So easily said Baba but it never happens so.
- S - If all these problems were removed would you all be happy?
- A - Myself, probably not because I want Your darshan but the rest of them would be or at least they will not have anything to worry about.
- S - They will create worries Radhika. As soon as these are removed, they will have more desires through which further obstacles will be raised.
- A - Does that mean that these should never be removed?
- S - No. They will go. I promised you before the end of this year. You are right about yourself though. Wealth cannot give you joy. You will only ever be truly happy in My company - only when you have acquired detachment though.
- A - It seems that it is going to be a long six months. I would that a fairy godmother would wave a magic wand. However, I am not asking You Baba because I do not want to use You for such purposes though we need it. When You feel for me, You will Yourself automatically get rid of the problems because of Your love for me.
- S - Clever, very clever. Leaving it all up to Me with the implied ultimatum. If I do not do so, then presumably I do not love You?
- A - Is that what I said?
- S - Exactly what you said.
- A - Oh... Well!
- S - You little...
- A - How about going to bed before we end up arguing?
- S - (Silence).

I do believe I have offended Baba. We shall see in the morning.

2nd July Friday

Honoring my promise here, I am wide awake at 6.25am after having gone to bed at 11.15pm. Baba seems quite happy about the situation having total disregard for my state at the end of this long, long day. I shall be exhausted.

- S - Nonsense.
- A - You try it and see.
- S - I do every single day.
- A - Huh.

Occupied all day I spoke to Baba at 8.45pm regarding a few comments made during the day.

S - All day You do not care to come to Me, in fact you have forgotten to clean today and now you come!

A - That is because I had to make Your clothes. I was busy.

S - Only half the day.

A - Then there was the shopping and recording the music for the play. I'll clean now for You.

S - What do I care what you do.

A - Baba! Don't be annoyed. I know it is because I asked for a 'price' for making Your robe, is it not?

S - You will have it.

A - Why so serious? I was only joking. You know very well I could never ask anything for doing that. It is a precious work You have given to me. I love to do it.

S - You may have your like-minded husband.

A - That is not what I ask for Baba, it is what would please my parents. You know that already. You should know by now exactly how I feel. I'm glad I made it today in spite of mother being unwell. You come first in my life. Though I do wish my parents to be happy also.

S - Come Radhika, I was only teasing. Always remember this one principle to do Gods work first. Then all your cares will be His and taken care of

A - Truly?

S - It is My law.

A - You are so sweet dearest, dearest Baba. Let me clean up first then we will talk.

S - No, leave it for now. You spend little enough time with Me as it is.

A - What did You do today?

S - Somehow, I knew this conversation must be leading up to this.

A - Well I cannot give up. I may ask, may I not? And sometimes persistence pays?

S - Not sometimes, always.

A - So I'll see You?

S - We'll see.

A - That means no. Enjoy Yourself today it's Guru Purnima.

S - I am not a Guru to you so why do you lay emphasis on today.

A - Others do, so I also do. But You are quite right You are not my guru. You are so much, much more to me than that. I shall not embarrass You by voicing it

S - Oh? Don't mind Me, please do.

A - You wish me to make it...? Think what others would say?

S - Does it matter?

A - Not to You perhaps but to me, yes. I prefer to keep my personal life private.

S - So why do you go advertising personal experiences?

- A - Creep. I do not unless I have to and even then, I never mention that.
- S - What's 'that'?
- A - You know.
- S - Ahh the Ah?
- A - Stop making out it's, well...
- S - Well what?
- A - Baba that's enough. It is entirely Your doing. You are the one who insists on silence in spiritual matters.
- S - Yes, blame it on Me.
- A - But of course.

On attending bhajans Baba asked me not to sing but to sit by His side. So much love, impossible to believe it is true and to confirm Baba kindly dropped three flowers from His picture. Usually, I miss these announcements of His presence but on this occasion, I saw all three.

10.15pm and Baba refused to retire for the night insisting on a sleepless night. He had been swinging on a swing in my heart since 8pm and still wished to remain there despite all my coaxing to the contrary.

- A - Baba I'll have to stay awake with You and I cannot for I am so tired. So please go to sleep.
- S - You sleep in the morning Radhika.
- A - I can't keep my eyes open.
- S - Alright then stay awake till midnight then we will have a feast and rest.
- A - You're crazy Baba. I'm not hungry but okay if You say so. Satisfied?
- S - Hmm. You may still sleep in the morning.
- A - It is 10.25pm now what?
- S - Love Me.
- A - How?
- S - Your choice.
- A - Sing to You?

4th July Sunday

I only managed to stay awake till 11.45 after which I must have dozed off for the next thing, I knew it was 4.30am and time to rise. Baba poor thing was so tired He was out for the count. I quietly carried out my daily worship so as not to disturb Him. Baba and I awoke at 9am when I queried.

- A - Baba quite a few people can now talk to You direct so is it still necessary to keep all this a secret?
- S - Yes, you must keep it to yourself. Communication with others is not the same as this, you will find out this for yourself later.
- A - It certainly appears to be the same.
- S - Not so, believe Me. I have promised to be here with you always and you also have the vision of Me in your heart, they do not.

A - I'm fed up, shall we have the feast now? You tell me Yourself if You would like anything.

In reply Baba shook His head. Not convinced that what I was seeing was real, I placed about ten slips before Him with yes, no and the available choices on them. It came up No. So much for not trusting the vision of Him in my heart. In the evening, we went out for a long walk in a wooded glade. On return I made hot drinks for us and massaged His feet for Him.

5th July Monday

S - I am not asleep.

A - I can't see You.

S - Here in the lounge.

A - Oh there you are - stop playing invisible Baba. It is difficult enough without having You play hide and seek. I'll clean up now first.

Later I was glancing through the recently arrived matrimonial list.

S - Why are you wasting time on that?

A - Just looking.

S - For what reason? Have I not told you that I Myself will bring to you the right person and make all the arrangements.

A - Yes but...

S - No buts. You have entrusted your life to Me and so it is now My responsibility.

A - I do wish You would take Your responsibilities a little more seriously.

S - Oh I do, I do.

A - Offended?

S - No, why?

A - Nothing just. Am I tired?

S - Rubbish.

6th July Tuesday

Shattered this morning. Going to bed at 10.30pm and rising at 4.30am is no fun. Debated on *whether* to retire for a short nap again. Baba maintained an observational silence. I am undecided as to whether this is an endurance test or what as Baba Himself is still in bed. Suddenly...

S - Endurance test.

A - In that case I won't

S - Good.

However, the events of the last two days including the long journey yesterday took its toll and I crashed out as the eyelids refused to co-operate anymore. Guilt reared its head and so we have not spoken all day. At 3pm I went down to tidy up. Baba was absent. I dare say He is irate at my failure of the endurance test.

7th July Wednesday

No matter how hard I try I never seem to make it to bed before 10.30pm. It is almost as if Baba is intent on showing me that sleep is unnecessary. Or perhaps He is teaching me that though sadhana is difficult the regime must be adhered to. And to subsist on much less sleep. Did not see Baba this morning and in spite of trying now, no success. Later whilst cooking.

- A - Oh God the one chapati a day has gone down the drain, hasn't it Baba (I said I would eat only one chappati a day).
S - You only just realised?
A - Are You talking to me now?
S - What do you mean 'talking to you'? You are the one who not only makes the mistakes but then you take it out on Me by being moody.
A - (Laughing) I do not Baba. I felt guilty.
S - And so you should.

Later we made up properly. He is so very, very sweet like the amrith He gives. Never truly angry and so willing to forgive and forget. If only we could follow His example. A special practice for the last scene and what a superb time we had discussing Baba and the time we would have at Prasanthi. Baba offered to clean His flat Himself today if I would spend the time with Him instead. I could not believe the love He showers on me.

- A - If this is all real and not my imagination then the tickets will come, and the dates will be altered today.
S - They will be but not today.
A - Baba why do You love me so much. I do not return Your love half as much.
S - It is My nature to love. Your love is special to Me. Not many love Me so.
A - No one loves me as You do either Baba. And Your love is very special to me also. Though I cannot understand why I cannot be at Prasanthi with You, married of course.
S - Who said you cannot? In fact, I clearly recollect telling you that you will soon when the time is right.
A - I wish the time were right now, this instant.
S - You are too impatient Radhika.
A - How do You think I feel so very distant from You?
S - Not distant, very close in the heart.
A - But I want to 'see' You properly.
S - Here we go again.
A - See! You are laughing at me.
S - No Radhika I am not. I appreciate the love that makes you yearn for Me. Believe Me I did not choose to be God as I have already told you. It is an onerous and tiresome position with few rewards and compensations.

- A - I know. I do feel for You, which is why I want to be with you and make up for all the pain and hurt You have to go through.
- S - And how would you do that?
- A - Guess.
- S - Tell Me.
- A - Same as usual - I'd cater to Your every whim, Love You to distraction, serve You lovingly, argue and tease You. Play with You annoyingly.
- S - Sounds inviting.
- A - Try it.
- S - I will, I will. In fact, I look forward to it.

8th July Thursday

Up late unfortunately. I had a most unusual dream in which I saw Baba. I and another boy approach Him. Apparently, we were to be married, and Baba advised him not to as he would not then be happy. Baba then told me some of my future, not good. I asked Him to look into it properly, it was better then. Baba then said something about 'speaking up' as He could not hear.

So very busy today with the practice and in preparation for the trip that there was no time to speak with Baba or go to see him. However amazingly enough the two things I asked for in confirmation of yesterday's visions have taken place today. We visited the local temple, and I could see Baba dancing whirlingly as they sang 'Jaye Shiva Shankar'. Regardless of the numerous visions and communications proving it all, I still find myself doubting the validity at times. Mother called me away saying 'let's go'. I consented by echoing her words.

- S - 'Let's go' indeed that is all you ever do is 'go'.
- A - Enjoy Your dance?
- S - I did not know you cared to watch.
- A - Of course I care. I have been busy today. I wish You would understand. You should not mind after all it is all for You.
- S - I know.
- A - Baba the girls in the Radha Krishna scene are brilliant.
- S - Good choice, is it not?
- A - Excellent, especially Your Radha. She is perfect for the part - so much love comes across for You. You should be pleased.
- S - I am. As I said before, this love is rare to find.
- A - I am so happy that I was the instrument You used to sow the seeds of that love - to awaken it through the sadhana programme.

Later...

- S - Take no note of what others say. Do what you think is right Radhika.
- A - Even with regard to Q?
- S - Yes. Rules and regulations are there for guidance only and not to be taken literally. One must always remember to balance them with love, consideration and concern.

- A - Thank You my loved one You have taken a great weight of my mind. You know I feel so terrible. Your love is overwhelming. You hear and answer each and every wish of mine. You are there for me always. I am never so for You, and it pains me. How I wish I could be strong in my love and discipline for You so that nothing swerves me from You. Baba, please make me so.
- S - It will come with time.

9th July Friday

Another busy morning, however, I did manage to fulfil my duties of tidying, washing and ironing.

- A - What a terrible day, awful weather.
- S - Hmm.
- A - Baba did You mean what You said about Q yesterday? Can he join the group?
- S - He must. Your mother was quiet right in her assumption.
- A - But how to do it. Many of them have reservations about doing so. If it comes to a vote, I hope it's okay.
- S - It will be. Leave it to Me.
- A - What I fail to understand is how people can be so unloving?
- S - Some people pay more attention to rules forgetting the human necessity to weigh a situation for merit or difference. However, they are not wrong, but they must learn to temper their decisions with compassion.
- A - I do hope the trip is a success Baba because we humans cannot see beyond the bounds of our little circle of beliefs when it comes to us personally.
- S - What do you mean by 'success'?
- A - The interviews, performing the play and singing to You.
- S - The real success has already been achieved - the instilling of love for God, the effects of sadhana. The fact that sadhana = results concept. I am very happy Radhika.
- A - That makes me happy too. But still...
- S - What makes you think that in view of that the rest remains impossible or beyond reach?
- A - The fact that we are humans, and we tend to make mistakes and so You may change Your mind.
- S - I won't. At least two of these you will have.
- A - Thank You.

Later...

- S - Why did you tell your friend what I said about Q?
- A - So that at least one person can understand that I am right and vote for it.
- S - It will only be one against anyway.

- A - How come?
 S - Wait and see it will be.

10th July Sunday

Attended a large yagna function with a slight cold and so did not have the time to speak to Baba. Baba displayed His displeasure at my breaking my promise to fast for the weekend and so I shall do so tomorrow.

11th Sunday

Yesterday I was so disappointed at my not choosing to assist and serve that I was in two minds to not sit in the yagna today but helped instead. However, on deliberation I deduced that my motives were not entirely untinged with selfishness as I could then walk about and not be constrained to sit through the boring speeches. To my amazement, as we went in early, I was able to render my little bit of service. I just hope He is pleased with me. He was so upset that I could not 'see' Baba anywhere in my heart yesterday. Once again, no time to talk however I did 'see' a vision of Yagna Bhagwan and Baba.

12th July Monday

Trying to find any excuse to lie in I asked Baba to come to me to confirm His views re Q. I did but Baba refused to comply. When I went down to tidy up Baba was absent. I am finding it increasingly difficult to remain in the heart with Baba unless there is silence around me which is a rare occurrence. It only seems to be available in the mornings so that by this evening I was heartily regretting my luxury lie in this morning. After 9pm, I was awaiting the return of my family, in that silence I could communicate with my beloved. Surprised to find there was a reply.

- A - What about a feast tonight?
 S - Only because you want one!
 A - Yes.
 S - What about when I suggested it?
 A - I was tired then.
 S - And now?
 A - I have to wait up anyway. Why are You speaking to me now?
 S - Your tears.

My brother had posed a hypothetical question. If I could go back in time which era, would I choose? Naturally the first thoughts were about the lifetimes of Lord Rama or Krishna. But on reflection I realised that only Baba meant anything to me and the childhood and teenage years, the years of His leela's and mahima's were something I yearned to have witnessed. Tears escaped unnoticed.

- A - You are so soft Baba, kind forgiving. I am not even a tenth of what You wish me to be and yet still in Your compassion You grant each

and every one of my wishes. I was only teasing You this afternoon when I said You don't listen.

S - I know.

I took Baba's queries to mean No and so I did not wait up or indulge myself. Besides if I could not do it for Him why should I do so for myself?

13th July Tuesday

What an ominous date. Rarely does it pass eventless and today was no exception. Up early - remained awake, sort off, with great restraint. Cleaned Baba's apartments early on. Later I accompanied mother for a hospital appointment. Due to certain personal and family upheavals, upset and unhappy today.

However later I was shocked, surprised to read in the morning paper my stars for the day (something I no longer engage in now as it is such a waste of valuable time). The prediction forecast seemed uncannily correct to a point 'Before you go away on a glorious holiday, you first have to wade through tedious chores. Pets must be farmed out, suitcases packed, milk cancelled, tickets purchased, and passports checked. Imagine going through all that for no purpose - for that is what a part of you fears is happening. You are working really hard, but you are not sure to what end. Do not worry. None of what you are going through will be wasted. ' A fine reward awaits.'

It could only have been formulated by the divine for my consolation. Another day lost to the turmoil's and tribulations of worldly affairs. I am becoming increasingly depressed with this lack of time for communication with Baba. Something or other invariably interferes. Regardless of the knowledge that I should be linked to Him at all times the connection suffers an instant cut off as soon as outer events become more immediate. I cannot fathom how to counter act this happening. I do wish Baba would assist.

14th July Wednesday

Nine days to go. Re taped the music to the play this morning.

A - Are You angry with me Baba?

S - No, why should I be?

A - Yesterday - it was all my fault.

S - Accidents will happen.

A - Then why wouldn't You speak to me last night?

S - You were too preoccupied with Your own errors and matters.

Later...

A - I'll tidy up, shall I?

S - No, sit here.

A - How can You want me to - after my mistakes?

S - Quite easily.

I could not believe it when Baba took my hand - refusing to let me get up.

- S - Ego brings on errors - never be proud that you have overcome or achieved this or that. It brings an immediate relapse in its wake.
- A - I thought it was that.

I had only just informed my mother in the morning about the sadhana chart and how it worked. That through it anger can be overcome. Naturally an outburst followed instantaneously which caused an argument which had been brewing all morning but actually had nothing to do with me. So, had my ego not arisen I, personally, would not have been involved.

- A - Baba do You still love me?
- S - Of course.
- A - Especially so - not like You do your whole creation.
- S - Why do you ask?
- A - Because I need to know.
- S - But why?
- A - It is the only sort of love I want from You. If I have fallen from grace, then I would like to know.
- S - No, you have not fallen from anywhere.
- A - What about my sadhana?
- S - You know yourself. Fair could be better.
- A - I suppose so.
- S - You know you are fairer, more honest and above board than all of the other gurus. You have no underhand cunning in your personality.
- A - (smile) How can You be sure?
- S - I can - I would not be here as I am otherwise.
- A - Ha ha. I can still be devious You know. What if I am fooling You as well?
- S - Cannot be Radhika. I know you through and through.
- A - Baba if cunning and conniving are so valueless - a handicap to spiritual progress and despised by You why do humans set such store by it? Nowadays unless one has these qualities one is considered an idiot, a simpleton and is looked down upon by all.
- S - This is exactly what is wrong with the world today - wrong values. Cleverness and cunning have never done any good it has always harmed never helped and it treads the road away from God.
- Later 6pm.

- A - Baba do You mind my telling my friend more about us?
- S - Yes.
- A - Why, it is nice for others to know and understand besides Baba she is the only one who knows.
- S - Radhika envy lurks in everyone, and it harms the person with something that others also want.
- A - S o r r y e e. Oh but I do love You. You know it is when others are awed and incredulous at Your presence with me like this that it really

strikes me how precious Your being here really is. Baba, what about the cleaning shall I do it now?

- S - I have already done it for today.
A - Washing and ironing too?
S - No, that I have left for you to do tomorrow.
A - Then I'll do that now.
S - If you wish.
A - I do.

However, my nephew woke up and started crying and it was not until 9.45pm that I finally remembered. Baba advised against it, but I still did.

15th July Thursday

After typing.

- A - You there Baba?
S - Of course I'm here.
A - Seven more actual days to go before we start our journey.
S - Looking forward to it?
A - Need You ask.

After a consultation with the others the conclusion was, I suppose, inevitable in view of Baba's comments last week.

- S - Told you they would say yes.
A - I might have known and not worried at all.

Today I'm feeling particularly close to Baba, and it is a wonderful, carefree and loving feeling.

- S - See the special advantage of staying awake in the mornings.
A - Hm nice. Baba You still of the same mind as before about us?
S - More so than ever. It is a good group. You have done well, Radhika.
A - Don't say that Baba, not yet, not until we have proved ourselves as worthy of Your personal attention.
S - (Smiles).

However, during our debate this morning, a comment had been made that Baba tells us what we want to hear and not necessarily what is correct. Doubts regarding this voice and vision were fueled and though personally unconvinced the seed, so sown, rapidly flourished so that by the evening I was swiftly coming to the conclusion that all this, His love, advice and comfort were the results of an overactive imagination.,

But fortunately, Baba had perhaps been aware of this and so this evening one of my class children approached me to say that Baba had told her that He was proud of me, that is myself. Chuffed at His attention and approval I realised that

here was proof positive that His words of this morning were genuine and that He really did speak to me so.

As the clouds dispelled, I was no longer a resident of this planet as the soul soared and floated in the divine domain. At night, though I cannot now recall exactly when, I saw a beautiful sight. My Moorthi of Baba was entirely covered in a gorgeous film of transparent something which moved, swayed, shimmered, and glistened in response to inaudible celestial music the vibrations of which I could only vaguely make out but could feel intensely.

The whole area was charged with divine energy. All in all, a most uplifting and fulfilling day. Could it be a taste of the days to come? Time will tell.

16th July Friday

Almost as if He too was overcome Baba remained in bed this morning and so I perforce had to conduct worship to His feet as He lay asleep. At 6.15am He was still there! What a lazy Baba!. Wish I could follow His example as it is extremely tiring rising at 4.30 and retiring at 9-10pm. Feeling lonely.

A - Baba wake up. If I'm awake, then so must You be.

Baba slowly opened His eyes.

S - What about when I am awake and you asleep?

A - Then it's quite alright because You never really sleep. At least that is what You say.

S - Everything to suit yourself.

A - But of course - Baba You're adorable.

S - Happy?

A - Yes.

S - Happiness is within Radhika do not seek it outside - that is delusion.

A - Did You not feel the rice on Your feet when I did puja?

S - I knew.

A - So?

S - So!

A - You mean You deliberately pretended to be asleep.

S - (Smiles).

It appears that every day now I am rushing around from one thing to another trying to accomplish a number of tasks simultaneously. Though I did think of Him and offer my lunch to Baba. He partook of it also, but it was not possible to converse properly. Finally at 10.15pm I settled down so that we could talk.

A - Are You waiting up for me?

S - What do you think?

A - Sorry but I was press ganged into accompanying the family out. Your doing of course. I so wanted to be free at eight tonight so that we could spend some time together. Why didn't You let me?

- S - You simply must learn to do so whilst otherwise engaged in the phenomenal world. If you do not, how can you stay all hours of the day with Me? It is not possible. You were progressing quite well in the early stages but now it has slowly gone. My purpose in making it difficult for you is so that may know this. God cannot be separated and set aside. I must be made a part of your life and as such be actively involved, by you, in it. Only then is it true communion with the divine. Like this it is merely like two neighbours living next to each other - you visit for a short while and leave. This cannot continue.
- A - Baba then You must help me. In spite of all my best efforts I'm failing. So please during this trip instill into me the knowledge and grace me with the ability to be with You twenty-four hours a day and also the will to carry it through.
- S - So simple, is it not? I might as well do it Myself.
- A - That is exactly what You do do. We have no will, no ability, we are puppets, and You are the puppet master pulling the strings and making us perform. So, all I am asking You to do is pull a particular string.
- S - Very clever. Put like that I suppose I'll have to.
- A - Oh please, I'll be so happy.
- S - For a while.
- A - Let us leave that, what about us? Shall we go out?
- S - No, stay here.
- A - You tired.
- S - No.
- A - Me neither so let's discuss private matters which have been outstanding for a while now.
- S - Like what? I'm not aware of any.
- A - Are You not? I'll remind You then, shall I?
- S - Do...

17th July Saturday

Very late this morning, 5.30am. Not pleased at all but Baba was not bothered about my tardiness. In fact, quite the opposite. After prayers, as I muttered apologies, Baba unexpectedly advised me to go back to bed. I declined the offer on the grounds there was much to do before I could attend the practice that afternoon. However, even on completion of my duties at 7am Baba again insisted and so concluding it prudent to follow Baba's instructions I complied. Since Thursday His love surrounds me, a tangible, active aura engulfing me entirely. The vibrations are...

- A - Now I've finished what did You wish to discuss?
- S - You are a very stubborn girl.
- A - You only just noticed.
- S - Cheeky too?
- A - It comes from being in Your company my loved one.
- S - An answer for everything is it?
- A - No, only for love. Did You want anything specific?

- S - Yes, you.
 A - Oh but I'm here always.
 S - Physically, yes - mentally not always.
 A - I could say the same for You in reverse. See how it is one without the other?
 S - I know, I know, back we go to the same old question - you want darshan!
 A - Yes.
 S - When will you learn?

Later I reflected on all that had been accomplished. Proud of the children yet thinking about the future I realised they had to be told that this was only the beginning. A mere 25% had been fulfilled, the remaining 75% yet remained to be gained and that all depends on total discipline. You cannot just walk into God's heart. Pat came the reply.

- S - You did.
 A - I did? How sweet of You to say so.

As I was working in the kitchen, I debated on whether it was worth running upstairs to fetch my notebook to note it down or not.

- S - Do. We will talk.
 A - Okay.

I replied as I raced away to retrieve it. This was in the morning. The rest of the day was taken up with the practice, packing and collecting articles for the trip. And so, it was not until 9.15pm that I attempted to communicate again unsuccessfully. Though comments had been exchanged all day. Rumours were rife that Baba was presently at Whitefield. The whole group was anxious about having to stay in hotels for the duration of our stay. The expense would be horrendous. I worried about the consequences hotel living would have upon the children's sadhana.

18th July Sunday

No matter what God bestows on us we remain unworthy through our human failings. I suppose I knew why Baba had not responded to my call last night. For in spite of rising early, typing and packing Baba maintained a huffed silence all day. I had broken my promise to fast for the next eight days until we left, as an extra sadhana.

Not only that but I completely threw to the wind any discrimination and had been eating all day all I wished. Saturday evening and Sunday with the result that Baba is most definitely displeased at my breaking my word to Him. Which is why He did not comply. The senses drag one down, but the heart immediately makes it apparent that the path so temporarily adopted is deleterious.

All day I suffered from loneliness and sadness due entirely to none else than this separation from Him. Though surrounded by a loving caring family and the usual joviality, I was enshrouded by gloom and doom. The remedy lay within my own hands - to apologise and promise to fulfil my promise by fasting strictly for the

remaining four days left before we go. Difficult though it is to fulfil, at last I capitulated.

19th July Monday

Up early, pottered around with this and that. Tentative about contacting Baba. Not sure if He will respond or how to approach Him. And so, the day slipped by engaged in everyday duties. However, I have noticed this distance from Him brings in its wake an inevitable earthquake. This was no exception. Everything that could go awry did without fail. My travelers' cheques could not be in two names. The hairdresser trimmed my fringe askew and too short. Six tickets are missing in the post. I was late attending bhajans. The coach fare rose by sixty pounds which means we may fall short on our budget and last but not least the controversial person is proving a problem. In addition, my niece kept the whole household awake at night for some unfathomable reason with the result I suffered from hay fever, a sleepless night and am very tired. During Bhajans I asked Baba if He had forgiven me, He was to appear in my dream.

20th July Tuesday

Result He did come this morning when I finally managed to doze for a while. Baba was seated before the students, and they were singing to Him. We had just arrived and were surprised and pleased to see Him. After listening for a period, I sent someone to ask Baba if we could perform. At first the person declined to ask but then did do so.

He came back with the reply that Baba had said 'Not only will you perform but you will be in a bigger film'. Whatever that happens to mean. Then we all dispersed to return to the Bangalore hotel. Unfortunately, night had fallen. All the others had gone, and I found myself alone. As I sought the rest, I came across a girl. However, when I went to find a room for both of us, she also mysteriously vanished. Coming across another lady I knew we decided we had no option but to spend the night there.

The terrible reality was that we were surrounded by thieves, crooks, vagabonds and various types of monsters, actual and mythical.

We escaped from one terrifying horror only to find ourselves in an even worse situation, from crooks trying to steal my bag to an old movie like scene. A door with live threads emanating from it like tendrils attempting to latch on to someone and draw them to their death in the hands of whatever lurked beyond the innocent looking door. By this time the other lady had also disappeared, and I eventually ended up by the side of a vampire awakening from its daily rest refreshed for the nightly rampage.

Fortunately for me I awoke from this far too real horror film like set. I understood immediately that Baba was trying to get across the message that when one lives in His presence then the dangers and all evil remain at a distance (for whilst He was with us none of these persons were visible) both actual and the imagined.

However once one leaves His presence and enters the world at large that is when all these awful possibilities and terrors imagined and real affect us and take over our lives. It is only when we live our lives without God that our life becomes unharmonious.

Another reason for this horror type dream could be that the film Jurassic Park had been released and everywhere I was surrounded, through the media, by

vibrations, thoughts and the odd television clip of monsters. This obviously left its mark as the subconscious reanimated all the ghoulish material I had read and watched on television prior to my renouncing it.

I am so pleased that all is well between us though we have not yet spoken. I felt His presence and am grateful. Life has been the proverbial hell these last two days. But during this morning's prayers as my mind spun round the problem of the missing tickets and I reflected on all that had gone wrong, a thought emerged of itself that it would all be corrected today. Baba replied immediately.

S - It will be.

And so began the setting to rights of all the events of yesterday. How, only Baba knows. The tickets arrived much to my relief. I tidied up today but did not converse as I was exhausted from a sleepless night. Also, I am having to spend all my waking moments with the family as I shall soon be going away for some time. Once again it was too late, and I was too tired to initiate a conversation.

21st July Wednesday

Refreshed I await Baba's voice to start the day with Him. Surprised to find Baba still in bed.

A - Love You Baba.

S - What happened these last few days?

A - I slipped from my sadhana.

S - So close to going too?

A - I'm sorry. What are You doing in bed, get up.

S - I'm tired.

A - How can You be tired?

S - The same way you were last night.

A - Copy? I'll tidy up then while You rest.

So, I did. Halfway through I started singing and swaying, dancing out of love for Him. Unknown to me Baba watched. When I noticed Baba by the door I stopped.

A - What are You doing here? I thought You were tired.

S - I was - Carry on.

A - Not now.

S - Why?

A - You are watching. Go away to sleep. I have not finished yet.

S - You sing of loving Me and cannot do so in My presence? Strange.

A - Oh go away.

Baba laughed at me.

S - Here, come.

We sat down.

S - Now sing to Me.

A - No.
S - Please.

Deeming it rude to refuse the Lord I complied.

S - Do You mean it? Beautiful.
A - How can You ask, every word.
S - I know, I know. You are going to be so happy this time.

I fell asleep on the sofa. When I awoke, we had coffee together. All day I spoke to Baba. He responded with kindness and love but very few words. When He retired for bed, I massaged His feet.

A - Baba why so quiet?
S - Just.
A - I have been calling on You all day and though You are very sweet You say very few words, why? Have I done wrong?
S - Now you know how I feel when you do the same to Me. When I am calling you and waiting but you are far too preoccupied with your own affairs.
A - It's terrible. I promise to try not to do so again. Even if I do then You must call louder and gain my attention. Only You can stop me from doing it Baba so please help.
S - Empty promises Radhika but still...I accept.
A - I love You. Baba, please stay at Prasanthi at least until Astami.
S - Why?
A - We are coming to improve our sadhana, to win Your love, how can we do so from a Bangalore hotel?
S - You can if you try.
A - They are young children and easily distracted - please, please remain in Prasanthi.
S - No promises, I'll see.
A - Not see Baba try hard.

I'm not at all sure I trust the 'I'll see' of Baba's.

22nd July Thursday

I cleaned up. As I washed in the kitchen Baba appeared, we took a break and sat down for a while. Later, as I got up to continue as the ironing yet remained Baba refused me permission insisting, I should finish later and now spend time with Him.

With only one day to go before we commence our journey, doubts of our worthiness crowd in. I wonder if perhaps we should have waited a few months more. Is our sadhana sufficient to win the Lord's grace? Will He notice us? Will our wishes be granted? Are we ready? Do we deserve the Lord's grace? Anxiety grips my heart as I try to peep into the future so very immediate now. It was so easy to

speaking of and plan everything but now comes the crunch, the test of deservedness. The marks for the examination will soon be published. Will we pass or fail? Only He knows. I dare not question Baba on this topic on the precept that ignorance is bliss.

The whole day dragged by slowly. There was again no time to speak as I was engaged in conversation with the family most of the day. However, when I did Baba appeared to be absent. Much time was expended in readying for the forthcoming journey.

23rd July Friday

And so finally the day has arrived. I am surprised to note that there is no undue excitement, perhaps due to the uncertainty of our reception at the other end.

This I find extremely strange because I am very calm and collected. I awoke early at 4am for prayers. As I commenced prayers, having forgotten to wake Baba or seat Him so that I may worship Him, Baba strolled in looking highly amused. Suddenly I realised my error. The very Lord I am going to see is the one I ignore in my heart. I hope He forgives.

A - Why are You so happy Baba?

S - Because you are coming to Me today.

A - Does that make You happy. Why?

S - For I too have been waiting for this day just as you have. I love you Radhika.

I continued with my puja. There is much to do this morning and so I may not get time to see Baba until later.

We had split the group into three. The bal vikas children and guru's. The parents of the children formed a separate group and a further group for persons who did not fit into either of the foregoing categories.

“Love God with all your heart,
with all your mind,
with all your soul,
with all your strength.”

-Sri Sathya Sai Baba-

Chapter 9

Love, Love, Love

24th July Saturday

Baba had semi promised not to test us at Prasanthi however, no such promise existed enroute as I discovered to my cost. One obstacle followed another. The group coped magnificently and came through smiling, shrugging off the mishaps as minor discomforts, each one anticipating the love of the Lord.

Myself, personally, I was very much in turmoil due to personal reasons. It struck me that the obstacles were merely a reflection of my own inner disharmony. Therefore, I resolved to deliberately distance myself from my emotions and attempt to recapture the love for my beloved Lord which inspired this trip. I decided to start by carrying out my daily duties for Baba.

S - Leave them.

A - I will do it.

S - You have been travelling and are tired.

A - I still can Baba.

S - No, you sit and I will cook for you. You are hungry.

That could not be denied. So very considerate of Him. I took it to mean that I had been granted permission to eat in the hotel restaurant.

25th July Sunday

My apprehensions vanished at the first darshan of the Lord. He raised His hand in blessing as I sought some sign of recognition. Later He returned even closer. Accommodation was virtually impossible as we watched many turned away as we waited for our answer for the next two hours.

After much debate His grace descended, and we were offered superb rooms. The fact that we all had to share one dormitory concerned us not a whit. Our room resembled a large bed at night. Our reception left nothing to be desired as during afternoon darshan we were greeted with a speech by the Lord and bhajans which tugged at our heart strings as our love winged its way to His heart.

26th July Monday

Morning darshan and Baba approached the boys 'How many? When are you leaving?' Unfortunately, the children responded with '50' instead of the individual group numbers. During the afternoon Baba kept a discreet distance. Security being tight, I wondered how the book could ever be signed.

S - Bring it to darshan.

A - Today?

S - No, tomorrow. I will call you.

A promise He reiterated again and again as during the few days that followed, we received very little attention.

27th July Tuesday

We initiated a rota for rising and so I was up first at 3am. I discovered a place for His puja photograph.

S - See, you can find a place for Me if you try.

I smiled to myself as I realised we were together again. I had missed Him albeit the distance was caused by myself. By loving Him and living in His presence all problems which arose were resolved within a day or hours. How wonderful is this love He showers upon me. Waiting in darshan line.

A - Baba mother thinks that an interview will solve all problems.

S - It will be the beginning of the solving.

A - If we get in.

S - You will.

A - So many, many promises.

S - All to be fulfilled.

A - Well I brought the book.

S - I am coming.

A - Baba what are You doing up there?

S - Getting ready for you.

A - For me?

S - Yes.

A - Why?

S - Special day.

There was a large ant before me, and I did not have the heart to brush it away.

A - I cannot have that there when You come.

S - Shortly it will move away.

Shocked amazement as within moments it did move away.

A - Baba You said I could write the book in Your presence. Well, let us get started.

S - (Smiles) You are so naive.

A - I know. That is why I love You so much.

S - Have your pen ready.

Very good darshan and a smile but Baba did not come close.

A - You did not come near.

S - Wait, patience. I will.

A - I want to kiss Your feet.

S - Is that all. Here (Baba offered them in the heart).

A - Not like this - the real You.

Once again afternoon darshan close but not close enough. I made a point of taking the book in the mornings only as Baba only granted interviews in the morning. I suppose I should actually refer to it as the manuscript. We hired a hall and commenced practices today.

28th July Wednesday

I had forgotten to clean for Baba yesterday and so I was busily washing.

A - Move Your feet.

S - Why are you so angry?

A - You! You do not come near and then ask why I am angry? Always it is like this. At a distance there is none closer to me but here in Your presence You stay away - why? Am I diseased or something? Love cannot be like that. It is quite simple You have no love for me else You would come running.

S - (Smiles) Radhika, Radhika.

A - Don't call me that. I'm no Radhika of Yours. You go to those You love.

S - I love you so much when you are angry.

A - If I believe that I will believe anything.

S - Why don't you have faith in My words. I promised you everything this time, wait and see.

A - Can't You understand I cannot wait. When I see You my heart cries out to You and You calmly walk by. Is that how You should behave?

S - What do you want?

A - To be with You, sit close, speak with You, kiss Your feet. I love You and it is Your indifference which hurts me. You have never blessed anything for me directly always through others. Don't You think I want to be close to You?

S - Enough, enough everything you shall have, I promise.

A - This time Baba?

S - Yes, yes. Come here sit with Me.

A - I have the washing to do.

S - Leave it.

A - I do not wish to sit here with You anymore until You fulfill Your promises.

S - Angry?

A - No, hurt.

As we were not given the opportunity to seek His permission to perform the drama we took to asking Him during bhajans and received different replies every day.

29th July Thursday

As is usual, with so many people we had our fair share of up's and down's but coped reasonably well, well aware that in His presence He will deliberately create situations to test the patience of all. Distant darshan today.

30th July Friday

I refuse to converse with Him within anymore as it has been six days and still no call despite His promises. Today we pleadingly asked for an interview as He walked by. Highly amused and thoroughly enjoying the pleas His eyes twinkled as He shrugged His shoulders and made a comical face to His aide whilst throwing three handfuls of sweets to us. I was informed my father had fallen ill in my absence and was at the point of dying. Understanding this to be a test of detachment I continued with my responsibilities undeterred enjoining Baba that my father was therefore His responsibility.

31st July Saturday

We receive very good darshans, but Baba keeps His distance however, this afternoon the boys managed to ask for an interview and Baba indicated yes, tomorrow. He makes a point of looking at each and every member of the group.

1st August Sunday

For some unfathomable reason we were all elated, line 1 and a superb spot near the path. Baba materialised vibhuti before me. Immediately my hand shot out as I thought 'For my father please' Baba looked at me intently before removing another hand over mine, sprinkling the precious dust in my hand. Tears of gratitude flowed at His compassion in giving without being asked. He stood there collecting letters and so I took the opportunity to gently touch His hand. Baba looked at me enigmatically. Going over to the boys He called one of our groups in for an interview. During afternoon darshan He once again approached only this time He deliberately kept His distance, gazing at me the while. Only half stretching out His arm, He expected the letters to be placed in His hand. I did so. Closing His fingers around them He slowly moved away still looking. He promised to call the children the following day.

2nd August Monday

It being Raksha Bandhan day I decided to have a tray of sweets blessed. Baba now ensured that I was aware of His special attention as He would look at me searchingly from a distance whilst approaching. However today He turned aside as an eager devotee made for His feet. The boys who were opposite immediately took advantage by whipping out their interview request notices, all fourteen of them. Baba burst out into laughter, materialised vibhuti for them and promised 'I'll see I'll see'.

Intent on fulfilling His mission of the morning Baba came straight towards me during afternoon darshan, smiling adorably. Elegantly moving the rakis out of the

way before blessing the sweets. I asked for namaskar. He declined to oblige or even respond. Little did I know that the next day held much in store for me.

3rd August Tuesday

This morning vibhuti fragrance engulfed me as I carried out my morning worship. A prelude to a wonder filled day. We no longer conversed; I queried Baba.

S - You are too busy.

A - Me? It is You who has no time for me. Besides first the outer demonstration of Your love then we will see.

Morning darshan was excellent, however the afternoon indeed proved a gem. One of the guru's was asked to bring the children's group for afternoon darshan as they were to be seated separately. The excitement was unbearable as only the two of us knew. All the gurus were seated in a line along the central path in the first block. Aware that this was a unique opportunity I took my manuscript with me on the off chance that Baba may perhaps call us in.

Baba approached us with deliberation and proceeded to confuse us. But first things first, spying an adorable foot I kissed it. By which time Baba was well into confusing the other gurus with His list of questions 'How many? How many children? How many boys? How many girls?, How many guru's?, How many altogether?' Unprepared for this test in mental gymnastics we floundered and failed the test. Baba turned away in mock exasperation as we attempted to recollect the exact number of boys and girls and got them wrong. Smiling as He moved off, He still threw us sweets from His next stopping point.

However, it never rains but it pours literally and metaphorically. Suddenly thunder rang out as rain lashed down in torrents. The people outside dashed in for cover and Baba cut short His round. Once again gazing intently Baba approached me whilst also looking at the file containing the manuscript. I might add that was noticeable every morning. For some reason Baba was fascinated by it. I decided to hold up the file on the chance that perhaps He may sign it.

My senses refused to register as Baba smilingly asked, 'What is it?' Stunned I replied 'A book about You' very impolitely I thought. Quickly correcting myself 'About You swami', I added. Amazingly enough Baba repeated each word of the title as if with immense pleasure, flicked through the pages and, I am informed, took the pen from my fingers, removed the top gracefully to sign 'With Love Baba'.

Some sort of coherent thought returning I asked if the children could perform the play, but Baba did not reply. Before I realised what was happening, He was walking away,

and I had not even thanked Him. He stopped in His tracks to listen as I called after Him 'Thank You Baba'.

It was only later that I realised that Baba had in fact fulfilled His promises to me. Firstly, He had warned me in advance so that I could bring the book for signing and secondly by actually signing the book He confirmed without doubt that our relationship and conversations in the heart, the inner communications are in fact genuine and not a figment of my imagination. Obviously, He read and approved of every word written in the book.

4th August Wednesday

A very good darshan today. Baba looked intently at us from His vantage on the dais. During afternoon darshan He spoke to the boys 'Yes tomorrow' when they asked for an interview. Since yesterday I have started speaking with Baba within again however the nature of the conversations were personal. His advice with regard to handling situations within the group was invaluable.

5th August Thursday

Unable to sleep last night I kept Baba company talking nonsense half the night. Last line but first in. Baba approached us smilingly, materialised vibhuti for me and another. Blessing the sweets of one of the children whose birthday it was and also mine Baba asked 'Where from?' followed by 'How many?' Sighing 'Tch, tch 'on being told 32. We pleaded 'Please Swami bal vikas children'. Lovingly He ordered 'Go, go, go.'

Most of us were in tears at the fulfillment of our dream. The interview left nothing to be desired. The Lord ensured that it was exactly what we had asked for 'A fun interview'. In spite of this Baba answered some personal questions also. Baba materialised two pendants on chains for two little boys and also a ring for an older boy. For myself my wishes were fulfilled in more ways than one. He showered far more than I had dreamt of possible or deserved. Allowing me to sit at His lotus feet holding them during the entire interview.

It is best that such precious moments are recorded in memory alone. Suffice to say that everyone left happy and there was not a dry eye to be seen.

Amongst other things and to my amazement, Baba not only accepted but commented on the white robe I presented Him with. The reader will recall no doubt that He had specifically requested me to bring it to Him. He also consented to us performing our play for Him on Gokul Ashtami.

Darshan in the afternoon was from the VIP block with Baba looking at us continuously. That evening the preparations began. We were informed that the Kalyana Mantap was at our disposal for rehearsals and that all our requirements as regards lighting, music, stage, curtains, potted plants and even props were provided.

The gratitude due to the students and warden of the Hostel can never be expressed or repaid. Indeed, His students are exceptional and beyond compare for they are not only utterly devoted to the Lord but put into daily practice all His precepts.

In the evening the warden enquired if we were ready to perform a full-dress rehearsal for Swami? We assented stunned at this additional shower of Grace.

6th August Friday

Regardless of the line we receive Baba ensures that we have an excellent spot for darshan, and He invariably comes near us. Today was no exception as Baba came straight towards us, smiling, happy He threw sweets to us. It is unbelievable the grace He is giving. Evening darshan front row and Baba approached close, smiling adorably.

7th August Saturday

Beautiful morning darshan and in the evening same spot at the front. Laughing He came and stood near one foot covered by His robe. Failing to uncover it I made for the other and kissed it. Baba had meanwhile materialised vibhuti for a lady next to me. Swiftly my hand went up but Baba, with a smile flicked His fingers sprinkling my scarf and head with the precious stuff. On the men's side a young boy asked for an interview which Baba had promised us today. Baba replied with a smile and a playful slap.

8th August Sunday

The morning was spent in preparations for the afternoon's rehearsal. Naturally we were unprepared when He walked in asking for the bal vikas children. However, generosity itself Baba gave us five minutes instead of the two we asked for.

The Lord Himself deigned to correctly tie Krishna's sash and offered suggestions for certain amendments. Knowing how nervous I was Baba kindly looked my way saying reassuringly 'Just rehearsal, only rehearsal'. I nodded from my place. However, unused to the ways of the Lord, I took offence at His casual manner in reviewing the play as He joked with others, swiveling around on His chair apparently paying no attention to the narration which had been especially written for Him. I was almost in tears at His apparent lack of appreciation.

9th August Monday

Personally, I was extremely annoyed with Baba this morning and I told Him so in no uncertain terms while He smiled and threw sweets at us. On the men's side Baba informed one of the men that the Kalyana Mantap would be better for the performance than the Sai Ramesh Hall. It was a revelation to us that we were still going to be allowed to perform. Little realising what He had planned for us we were slightly disappointed at this change of venue for we concluded that it must be because the performance was not up to scratch.

One of the most important lessons learned by all was the love and generosity with which Baba placed everything at our disposal, truly the loving Mother Sai for He gave to us His own personal red carpet for the performance and the use of His own personal tambura which He used to play in His youth, now a museum piece. We did not have the heart to make use of it in case it met with an accident.

Once again near the front for darshan and Baba came close and threw sweets, smiling.

10th August Tuesday

Gokul Ashtami and we had darshan only though Baba looked as always to see where we were. He looked like a veritable Krishna in glorious yellow. The day was spent preparing for the evening's performance and this time though we were well prepared and ready Baba refused to oblige with an impromptu visit. Due to lack of space in the hall it was restricted to mainly people from the UK, a few foreigners and Baba's students.

I gazed at Him throughout the performance, and I think I can safely say without doubt that He enjoyed every minute of the play. We were surprised at the applause after every scene. As the final song ended Baba came on stage and said 'Radha, Radha'. He materialised a pendent and a gold chain for Radha.

Our darling Krishna made all our dreams come true as we did aarthi to the Living God. The only thing that mattered to me was that we had succeeded in giving joy to the Lord who gives joy to all. Our reward - He was happy, we had pleased the Lord and captured His heart. Words are inadequate. Something that had been created for Him alone had found favour in His eyes. Each song, each word had been written and chosen solely for Him.

11th August Wednesday

I had taken to heart some alterations Baba had made to the drama itself, minor but significant and so this morning Baba explained to me why they were necessary.

A personal conversation ensued which it is not appropriate to relate however part of my complaint lay in the fact that Baba had not been close recently (last 2 darshans) and so Baba kindly rectified the matter immediately. In our favourite spot outside I waited with a tray of sweets (something that became a passion for me, for all in all Baba blessed nine trays for me. As expected, Baba blessed my sweets, allowed padanamaskar and I managed to ask Him about the book though I failed to catch His reply.

The children held up a banner 'Thank You Swami' as we all thanked Him verbally and from our hearts. Baba referred to the drama as 'Very beautiful'. In my view He had fulfilled all His promises and given us much more than we had imagined possible.

S - Thank You it is truly a magic trip.

S - There is more to come.

S - How, what?

S - Wait and see.

During bhajan His eyes were on us mostly.

12th August Thursday

Very good darshans morning and evening. Last night I dreamt Baba had some white threads in His hair. Spotting these I said, 'Come here little one', as I removed them.

13th August Friday

Morning darshan was a whizz as Baba was expected in Bangalore where there was to be a bal vikas programme and presentation of prizes. Some members managed to follow Him, receive extra darshan and trail Him back to Whitefield. During afternoon darshan it began to rain with the result that Baba only went up and back down the central path. Though He managed to visit the boys with 'Good Krishna, good little Krishna'.

14th August Saturday

Once again, a dream of Baba in which He walks by, and I ask for vibhuti for my mother. Baba emptied a box of vibhuti into my hand. Once again darshan only for the ladies whilst the boys receive extra attention as Baba said, 'Ah big Krishna, good drama'. I understand that He wishes me to cultivate the inner contact with Him which I refuse to do unless the outer Baba conforms also. I was in our room when Baba suddenly asked me to come down as He was leaving in the car. It proved to be quite true. During darshan Baba would inform me that he would be coming down soon and He would.

- S - Have the inner connection and the outer Baba will come to you immediately.
- A - So we go back to being as we were at home.
- S - It is what I have been waiting for.
- A - Hungry? Shall we have lunch like we used to?
- S - Yes.
- A - You must come to me this afternoon.
- S - I will see.
- A - Not see, promise.
- S - (Smiles) When you are with the Inner Baba the outer must respond. The distance is because you have abandoned Me in here.
- A - What are You doing now?
- S - Talking to others at the moment.
- A - I cannot verify anything.
- S - You will see the truth of it all soon.
- A - My surprise?
- S - Soon.
- A - Baba I want to speak to You.
- S - Yes, yes, yes.
- A - Living here, when?
- S - That also soon.
- A - Play, were You happy?
- S - Need You ask?
- A - How can I not - no appreciation - no love for me.
- S - Silly child I know it was for Me.
- A - But Your distance these last few days.
- S - Only because of your desertion. I said nothing these last two weeks for you were busy but now live with Me every minute, be mine.
- After darshan.
- A - You said You wanted to see me but You did not even look as you went by.
- S - I see all, looking is unnecessary.
- A - How can You gain satisfaction from that? I cannot unless You smile or look at me.

S - I am omnipresent. You came down for Me. I knew, I saw, I am happy.

A - Well I'm not. You didn't look.

S - (Laughs).

A - It's not fair.

S - I'll make it all fair, just wait.

A - I wish I could believe that.

S - You must - it will happen.

A - Am I cured?

S - Can you doubt it? Love met love and the miracle happened.

A - I love you.

S - So long since you have said that.

A - Liar I say it every day.

S - Yes but not with the same feeling.

A - That is what You think.

Due to the rain, there were no lines for darshan and so we rushed in, and I was in a very good spot. Baba had advised me against going to the lecture today and now insisted that I remain where I was. However, group unity demanded that I join the others. This is where I erred.

A - I wonder what You are doing.

S - Business Radhika business.

A - Don't call me that until You prove it.

S - Foolish child even after all I have proved?

A - It is easy for You to chastise but from the 'lack of knowledge' point of view it is perfectly valid. I would like padanamaskar also.

S - You want everything.

A - But of course - especially where it concerns You.

S - Why?

A - Guess.

S - I know, just teasing.

A - Baba do You really love me?

S - Again?

A - You know if we carry on talking like this it will fill volumes.

S - So?

A - So! Two books. You must sign the other also.

S - We'll see.

During darshan Baba avoided where I sat and went straight to where I had been previously seated, looking at me the while.

A - You lied and did not come.

S - You did not listen.

15th August Sunday

Up later than usual and included the inner Baba in my prayers as at home. Baba advised against helping in the canteen as He wished to speak to me.

I paid heed to Him and later reaped the reward. We had line 9 and were outside again. Baba however disappeared straight inside, bhajans began and I gulped down my disappointment as I surrendered my will to His. Suddenly He rose and came towards us granting all of us padanamaskar and blessing all the sweets.

Only touching the tray before mine He threw two handfuls from my tray. I managed to take namaskar three times in all as well as placing my mother's mala on His feet for blessing. I requested vibhuti for my mother. Baba looked, hesitated and only then moved on. In addition, I received three other sweets.

S - I threw your sweets twice to make up for yesterday.

A - I was so sad at Your distance.

S - I know.

As I walked back Baba went out in the car promising to return at 10.25. I told Him I would be down before then but imagine my dismay when the car returned at 10.26. I had become busy with the study circle and forgotten. I apologised profusely. How could I fail Him?

As I sat for bhajans at 1.30pm Baba complained about my not paying Him any attention at lunch. Then He insisted that I straightaway buy a photograph of Him which He promised to sign. Not daring to disobey I rushed out and brought the one he recommended (Baba in white, 60th birthday) a large full length one. During darshan Baba looked at the photograph and album with so much love.

Once again, He informed me, He would be going out but I being busy missed Him again. Suddenly it strikes me that I want all His attention and yet I am not prepared to give Him 100% of mine.

16th August Monday

All night I had dreamt of Radha and Baba though I failed to recollect the exact details. I awoke happy. However, Baba (probably tired after last night's outing) refused to get out of bed and so I perforce had to conduct puja there itself.

At the back for darshan but it was beautiful. Slight difference of opinion and so I consulted Baba.

A - Well Baba, was I wrong?

S - What do You think?

A - I believe that You come first, and I cannot miss seeing You.

S - You are right. But some people have not arrived at that conclusion yet, so they see things differently.

A - Sorry I talked so much this morning - from now on no unnecessary talking.

S - Accepted.

- A - Baba forgive me but please come close to me. I have not done anything wrong it is just that others have a different perspective of things
- S - Yes, yes but you must not complain.
- A - I won't only come near again.

He generously responded to my pleas as we had our front line, and He came straight towards us. Being near the end of the line I worried that He may not come near me. However, Baba ensured that I realised that He had come for me for He turned away after me even though the line continued. I held up my large photograph saying, 'Please sign'. Baba responded with 'I'll see, I'll see'. He remained long enough for me to then kiss His feet and yet again take namaskar as He moved off. During bhajans His eyes constantly fell upon me as we spoke together in the heart.

17th August Tuesday

Baba again refused to let me do seva insisting that I must learn to love Him and sit in silence with Him. Not that I ever do.

- A - Baba please call me to sit at Your feet next time in the interview.
- S - Does it matter?
- A - To me it does. This is my dream coming true, please?
- S - Soon you will always sit at My feet.
- A - Baba please this time.
- S - I'll see Radhika.
- A - Not 'see'. If You call who can say no.
- S - Very insistent.
- A - Thank You. I want to speak with You alone also.
- S - That too?
- A - Of course.
- S - Why?
- A - So that I can offer my love to You.
- S - Do so now, here.

Darshan is good but right at the back. Baba informed me when He would be going out. He was delayed returning and so I carried out a few chores in the meantime. On His return we were supposed to spend some time together, but I fell asleep.

- A - Sorry Baba, I fell asleep.

No reply then but He returned later. Lovely afternoon darshan as Baba looked and indicated wait for the signing of the photographs. His boys forgot His handkerchief which caused a humorous stir. Later after tea at 7.10pm I found myself seeking Baba's company.

- A - Why can I not be satisfied with this? I should not but I want to be close to You. It is only while I am here - afterwards I will only have you in the heart.
- S - I cannot give you attention always. I must see all those who come to me Radhika. Anyway, what's to say there may not be more than just that.
- A - Likely story!
- S - You have no idea of all I have planned for you.
- A - Right at this moment I am not even sure that I believe that You are speaking to me now.

Instantly Baba mentioned that if I wished to see the accommodation officer, he was present now. To test the truth of this I rushed downstairs to meet him at the bottom of the stairs. Having consulted him I returned, my heart throbbing. What to believe, what not to believe? At times Baba deliberately teased me with partial truths so that I continuously doubted the validity of His presence with me. And yet He would inform me of the goings on of other people.

- S - Believe all of it for it is truth.
- A - That is easy for You to say. You do not have to live with other people. Never mind I love You so whatever You do or say must be acceptable.
- S - That is not the right attitude.
- A - I know but...
- S - But nothing, love, love, love for love's sake.

18th August Wednesday

Baba is becoming increasingly lazy these last few days. I did puja, tidied up and then washed His clothes. Baba complained about being left alone as soon as the work was finished.

- A - Now You know how I feel when You do not come near me.
- S - But I have many people to see.
- A - And I have lots to do.
- S - Spoiled Radhika.
- A - Pained at Your distance.
- S - You will not be happy until you have Me with you always.
- A - How can I be?
- S - (smiles) Then I suppose I'll have to arrange it.
- A - You will? What?
- S - The darshans you seek.
- A - When?
- S - Soon, soon.

Darshan was good but Baba kept His distance and naturally I complained. Afterwards I was intent on starting work on correcting the manuscript, but a friend

arrived, literally a Godsend or I would have missed a stupendous darshan in the canteen.

A cleaner raised the alarm that Baba was paying the canteen an unscheduled visit. Racing down I was shocked that He Really was in the canteen. In the kitchen I discovered Baba surrounded by the cooks and chefs asking questions about the dough amongst other things. Standing on the outskirts I asked Baba to let me see Him. Instantly a passage cleared, and I was standing face to face with Him. He stood speaking with the kitchen head then turned to go. Just then I said I wished to ask Him something and would He please turn towards me. Baba turned, looked at me but the very closeness erased the query out of my mind and all I could think was 'My word You are even shorter than me'.

Baba waited a few seconds and then proceeded on His round towards the central area between the two canteens. As He commented on the shortage of dining area, chairs and tables one charming foot was angled for all to see. I quickly took namaskar. Baba then reviewed the bookstore and general store before leaving on His daily visit outside. Reveling in our good fortune, a friend and I decided to go out for a coconut drink in the hope that we may see Him return. He did. Short visit?

In unusual and unrelatable circumstances Baba through a third party presented me with His surprise, His own personal hankerchief. During afternoon darshan I reviewed our conversation last night and delighted in His gift to me.

A - Thank You, how wonderful.

S - With more to come.

A - More?

S - Much, much more you are coming back in November.

I stopped short, could not credit what I was hearing. My beloved was in my heart promising me so much.

A - I wish You would sign my photograph.

S - I will, I will.

Not that He came near.

A - Promises, promises.

Joyful nevertheless I offered all my love at His feet during bhjans as He stayed on longer than usual, smiling and happy until with one last devastating smile, He left.

19th August Thursday

Our favorite spot for darshan but Baba went straight to the dais and bhajans commenced. Dazed by this unexpected turn of events I prayed that Radhika (if I was) should be at His feet. My eyes widened in surprise as after aarthi Baba made towards us. Close, I took padanamaskar and then seeing that He was yet busy I kissed His feet twice. As I walked back after darshan.

A - Are You going to give the whole group an interview?

- S - Do you wish Me to?
- A - You have given us so much already. It would, be nice for the others - but no I cannot insist.
- S - If you want Me to I will.
- A - If You want, You can. It is Your choice. Thank You for Your feet.
- S - How could I not? My Radhika was waiting for Me, was she not?
- A - You don't say!

Commenting to a friend I said 'I wish Baba would give us even half the love He gives to His students'

- S - Half? (broke in my invisible companion). I have given you all I give to them.
- A - Not quite, some things are yet remaining.
- S - Splitting hairs?
- A - No, just wanting more of You.

Afternoon darshan and I am over greedy as I ask to speak with Him. He informs me that I do not need His physical speech as I have Him within always. I protest that as an embodied soul I yet require His personal company also as much as anyone else, if not more. In response Baba came and stood very near and spoke to others in the group. Baba appeared to be particularly pleased as I kept up a trail of inconsequential chatter aimed at humoring Him during bhajans.

In the evening Baba chastised me for leaving Him alone as I went to assist in the canteen. He said He had been awaiting my company for over an hour. What could I do but apologise.

20th August Friday

I was up early with the admirable intention of helping again. However, after half an hour of complaints from Baba I returned to our room. He desired to speak.

- A - It is all very well complaining like this, now You know how I feel when I call and call on You and You stand at a distance, smile and vanish without so much as a word.
- S - You know why Radhika. I have explained to you so many times. Now, today I will come. I shall stay and speak with you.
- A - You promise.
- S - Promise.
- A - Good. About time too.
- S - You may ask your questions. I will give you the opportunity.
- A - And an interview please.
- S - And interview. How can I refuse you anything?
- A - You make it sound so simple and easy - yet it is so difficult, Your company.
- S - Not if I wish it.

Darshan outside but Baba smiled deliberately, keeping his distance. However, He went over to the boys granting padanamaskar to all and informing them of a possible interview. They refused to divulge anything. 10am.

A - What shall we do now?

S - How about making up for this morning.

A - So that's why You stayed away this morning? Cheeky.

S - Well you made me wait for you.

A - Hah.

On His instructions I saw Him leave and return when He smiled and waved to us.

Our last darshan and what a delicious delight, unexpected in spite of His promise this morning. 3.50pm Baba's aide approached us asking us to go into the Kalyana Mantap. Before long Baba Himself came in asking where the boys were as they had not arrived yet. In this final deluge of grace, He fulfilled what remained of our wishes. As cameras were not allowed in darshan Baba murmured darkly about the seva dal whilst swiftly going out to ask His aide to summon two students with cameras. On the arrival of which He posed for group photographs with both the boys and girls separately.

I believe He spoke to almost every member of the group, blessed everything presented to Him and also signed my photograph and answered some questions pertinent to my future and peace of mind. One of the most delightful high spots was when surrounded by petitioners, of which I was one, He joyfully tapped each one on the head whilst saying 'I bless, I bless, I bless.

Twenty-five minutes later we sang what has now become 'our song' to Him 'EK TERA SATH' as a final offering of our love. At the conclusion Baba left to give darshan to the devotees waiting for Him outside. A few moments later we also followed, in tears at the bliss bestowed upon us. During bhajans He looked in our direction and as He left after aarthi we waved goodbye. The Lord responded by waving us a loving farewell in return.

And so came to an end what Baba Himself had referred to as 'a magic trip'. A journey to visit the Lord incarnate. What began in December 1992 as a far-fetched dream, swiftly becoming a possibility, rapidly turning into a reality, ended in being the trip of a lifetime.

For me personally He had fulfilled all His promises made during the last six months. He graciously consented to the children performing in His divine presence, granted interviews and bestowed the additional boon of a private rehearsal. What can I say except that I was overwhelmed as were all the members of the group.

More importantly, through all this, He proved beyond a doubt that He resides within my heart as my most cherished beloved Lord, friend and confidant. As a child I had an insatiable appetite for fairytales and dearly longed for an invisible all-powerful friend who would be my lifelong guardian and companion. The dream has become a reality. And so, I will end with the words from the play 'Why can't you be the one the Lord is seeking'.

Why can't you be the one the Lord is seeking?
Throughout the millennia He has been searching and searching for that special
devotee.

The one who seeks Him for Himself and not for what He can bestow.
How many cry for the Lord, cry for His love, His company?
How many are there who want Him for Himself with no thought of self –
only to look to His comfort, His pleasure, His happiness?
How many yearn for His smile, His laughter?
Indeed, who desires to make the Lord laugh?
How many love the Lord for Himself?
Does anyone ever think of His loneliness?

In the midst of this great universe, of His making, He is alone.
For this very reason He created man in His image –
but man turned to the tinsel and the trivial.
We ask of Him favours, pray for cares and promotions but
only one in a million loves Him for Himself.
Even amongst those few He has no one who will be friend and companion to
Him. No one to play with, sport with.
This love, this companionship He has been seeking throughout the ages.
Learn to love the Lord all the time with your whole heart and soul.
Do not be forever demanding.
Seek to give for He is the ultimate in all relationships.
The yearning, the agony of unfulfilled longing for Him
is the love that melts His heart.
No other relationship can bring the same complete happiness
that loving the Lord can.

So, why can't you be the one He is seeking, His friend, His sakha.
Do not give it up as an impossible task
Try and you will succeed.
It is within the reach of all
And by so doing, you will please Him greatly and win His love
for eternity